Community Issues Report

FIRST QUARTER 2009

Meredith Corporation
WHNS FOX Carolina

04/5/09

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COMMUNITY ISSUES 1/1/09 – 3/31/09

Consumer, Health & Safety

An interest in knowing about events that impact our daily lives. A need for information about how to be wise shoppers of goods and services and how to live healthy and safe lives.

Crime

A need to know about crime and law enforcement activities and a concern for personal safety.

Education

A concern abut the money and skills needed to improve schools and an interest in improving student's quality of education.

Environment

A concern for how the environment is affected by human activity.

Government

An interest in how government affects our personal lives

Jobs/Economy/Growth

An interest in the local and national economic outlook and the impact growth has on our communities

Quality of Life

An interest in things that improve one's satisfaction with life.

The following pages list representative samples of program segments from The Ten O'clock Newscast, The News at 6:30 Newscast and The Morning Newscast during this quarter that respond to our ascertained issues. Each segment was 20 seconds to 3 minutes in length (except as otherwise reported).

The following pages also identify issue-responsive episodes of programs, which are listed under the appropriate issue.

WHNS also broadcasts public service announcements, news and weather cut-ins as needed to inform local community of breaking news and emergencies.

Attachments

Consumer, Health & Safety

FIRST QUARTER 2009

Problem/Need: CONSUMER, HEALTH & SAFETY

<u>DATE</u> <u>TIME</u> <u>PROGRAM</u>

Saturdays 6:30am TODAY'S HOMEOWNER

(airs weekly)

Description: A half-hour weekly television show that features information on how to maintain and improve your home, both inside and out. The approach to home improvement helps everyone from the experienced do-it-yourselfer to the first time homeowner. Projects are taken from start to finish in each weekly episode. (30:00)

January 7, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News January 7, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Analysts said the same cheap oil that's providing relief to drivers and businesses now is setting the stage for another price spike, perhaps as soon as next year. It could bring back painful memories of last summer's \$4-a-gallon gas. The oil industry is scaling back on exploration and production because some projects don't make economic sense when energy prices are low. And crude oil is already harder to find because more nations that own oil companies are blocking outside access to their oil fields. Analysts said that when the world emerges from the recession and starts to burn more fuel again, the combination of higher demand and lower supply suggests that prices will almost certainly shoot higher. Some analysts said oil could eventually eclipse \$150 a barrel and possibly hit \$200. In such a scenario, gasoline would easily cost more than the record high of \$4.11 a gallon set last summer. Oil has been trading at about \$50 a barrel. Gas Disputes In Europe: Meanwhile, the spigots are running dry for a dozen European countries who rely on natural gas supplies from Russia that travel through Ukraine. Russia has completely shut off its supplies going through the former Soviet country in the latest move in a dispute over prices. About 80 percent of Russian gas to Europe is shipped via Ukraine. On Jan. 1, Russia stopped all gas shipments to Ukraine after both countries failed to agree on prices and transit fees for 2009. Over the past week, Russia accused Ukraine of siphoning off tens of millions of cubic meters of gas meant for Europe. Ukraine has admitted diverting some transit gas, saying it had the right to use the fuel to run its pumping system. The Russia-Ukraine natural gas dispute has left tens of thousands of people in Europe without heat as governments scramble to find alternative energy sources.

January 9, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News January 9, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Nearly three-quarters of car shoppers prefer to buy American-made products, according to a report from Kelley Blue Book. More than half of the respondents to a Kelley Blue Book survey said they try to buy American-made products if they are readily available and competitively priced. Another 14 percent said they will go out of their way to buy American, while 6 percent said they will go without if an American-made product is not available. That penchant for American products also extended to American automakers, despite the downturn in the industry. One-third of new-vehicle shoppers say they would only consider cars from U.S.-based manufacturers such as General Motors, Ford or Chrysler, and that they would not consider vehicles from any other countries. "Seeing the domestic automakers' recent struggle has ignited a heightened sense of patriotism among some American car shoppers," said Jack R. Nerad, executive editorial director for Kelley Blue Book. "People are pulling for the Big Three to survive and thrive." Even more good news for the Big Three automakers is that American-made vehicles are on the vast majority of shoppers' consideration lists, with more than 90 percent saying they would consider buying a vehicle from a domestic manufacturer, compared to 74 percent for Japanese vehicles, 57 percent for German vehicles and 38 percent for Korean vehicles. The survey also revealed that all but 3 percent of vehicle shoppers plan to buy rather than lease their next vehicle and that nearly three-quarters plan to purchase new vehicles rather than used. "The overwhelming inclination to buy versus lease is a sign of the current economic climate," Nerad said. "People feel that leases are both less available and not as financially advantageous as they previously were."

January 14, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News January 14, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: The South Carolina State Museum is raising admission prices to help offset a state budget cut of \$800,000. The State newspaper reported that adult admissions will go from \$5 to \$7 starting Monday. Senior citizens tickets will go from \$4 to \$5. There is no change in the price for children from 3 to 12; it will remain \$3. Younger children are admitted free. The museum is also requiring its 34 full-time employees to take nine days of unpaid leave this year. There is no change in the annual membership <u>rates</u>, which offer free admission. Those are \$35 for individuals and \$45 for two people. The museum's state funding has been reduced from \$4.3 million to \$3.5 million as the state struggles during the <u>economic</u> downturn.

January 28, 200910:00pmThe Ten O'clock NewsJanuary 28, 20095:00a-9:00amThe Morning News

Description: More products have been recalled from the Georgia peanut plant at the center of the salmonella probe, where federal investigators reported finding several sanitary problems. A Food and Drug Administration inspection found that roaches, mold and signs of a leaking roof were among 10 separate problem areas at the Peanut Corp. of America's plant in Blakely, Ga. A government report said salmonella had been found previously at least 12 times in products made at the plant, but production lines were never cleaned up after internal tests indicated contamination. Federal officials have announced a recall of all products containing peanut paste or peanut oil produced over the past two years at the plant. In a briefing Wednesday, the federal food safety officials said the plant owner had agreed to the recall. More than 500 people have gotten sick in the salmonella outbreak, which is linked to at least eight deaths. Federal food safety officials say it's too early to say what action will be taken against the plant. The FDA says it is preparing a report of findings on the plant, and the company will be allowed to respond. The FDA's Michael Rogers told reporters on Wednesday that the agency has a number of regulatory options available. He declined to elaborate. Earlier, a senior lawmaker in Washington and Georgia's agriculture commissioner called for a criminal investigation of the plant. Dog Treats Join Peanut Butter Recall: More producers are pulling items from store shelves, and it doesn't only affect food for people. Carolina Prime Pet recalled four of its dog treats because they could be contaminated with salmonella. In pets, the organism can cause diarrhea, vomiting, fever and abdominal pain. It can also be transferred to people handling the pet treats. The company said it has not had any reports of problems, but recalled beef shanks with peanut butter and other treats. For more information, consumers can call 888-370-2360. Jenny Craig Inc. recalled Jenny's Cuisine Anytime Peanut Butter Flavor Nutritional Bars. The recalled bars were distributed with best before dates of MAY1209ALO, MAY1209BLO, MAY2409BLO, MAY2509BLO, MAY2509ALO, MAY2609ALO, and MAY2609BLO. They were distributed directly to clients through Jenny Craig centers or the at-home Jenny Craig Direct program. For more information, consumers can call 800-536-6922. Isagenix International recalled some Chocolate Dipped Honey Peanut IsaLean bars. The bars, with UPC No. 602410, have the lot numbers 11390108, 11390208, 12390308 and 12390808. The company can be reached at 877-877-8111. SOPAKCO Inc. recalled certain Sure-Pak 12 Meals. The recalled products were sold to distributors and customers nationwide and several foreign countries. Some of them were sold at stores specializing in emergency preparedness and camping gear and rations. The recall includes the lot codes 8261, 8278, 8285, 8287, 8294, 8320, 8322, 8330, 8350, 8357, 8358, 9003 and 9012. For more information, consumers can call 423-278-1437. Calif. Schools May Have Sold Tainted Cookies, Dough: The California Department of Public Health said Wednesday that 14 schools in Sacramento and Placer counties may have distributed potentially tainted peanut butter cookies and cookie dough as part of fundraising efforts, KCRA-TV in Sacramento reported. People are being advised to not eat or handle frozen peanut butter cookies and frozen peanut butter cookie dough that have Dough-To-Go and Jane Dough labels. Fundraiser groups sold the products from 162 public and private schools in California between August 2008 and Jan. 16, 2009. So far, no illnesses have been reported in association with Dough-To-Go Inc. of Santa Clara, the health department said.

January 30, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News January 30, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: The government said schools and agencies in at least three states were shipped possibly tainted peanut products that have been recalled in a nationwide salmonella outbreak. The products were shipped as part of the federal school meal program. A spokesman for the Agriculture Department's Food and Nutrition Service said schools, day care centers and group homes in California, Idaho and Minnesota received roasted peanuts and peanut butter from Georgia-based Peanut Corp. of America. The USDA had said previously that school meal programs were not affected by the large-scale recall. Stores have already pulled more than 430 kinds of cakes, cookies and other peanut-containing foods from shelves in what the Food and Drug Administration is calling one of the largest product recalls in memory. The outbreak has sickened more than 500 people in the United States. As many as eight deaths may be linked to the outbreak. The government has opened a criminal investigation into the outbreak. Stephen Sundlof, head of the FDA's food safety center, said Friday the Justice Department will investigate possible criminal violations by the Blakely, Ga., peanut processing plant that shipped tainted products to dozens of other food companies. The company shipped products that initially tested positive for salmonella after retesting and getting a negative result. The FDA's investigations branch will assist in the probe. Meanwhile, the White House is pledging stricter oversight of food safety in response to the outbreak. Press secretary Robert Gibbs said Friday that President Barack Obama plans to announce a new FDA commissioner and other oversight officials in the coming days. Gibbs said they will put in place a "stricter regulatory structure" to prevent breakdowns in food-safety inspections. Gibbs said recent revelations about poor oversight have been alarming. He said he was referring to both the government's own regulatory system and to the peanut company linked to the salmonella outbreak. AP: Bad Peanuts Found Weeks Before Outbreak: The Associated Press has learned there was a warning sign that peanuts from the Georgia plant weren't fit for human consumption weeks before the salmonella outbreak. A shipment of peanuts exported to Canada were rejected after they were found to be contaminated. A September FDA report said the peanuts contained an unspecified "filthy, putrid or decomposed substance." The shipment, which was coming back across the border after being rejected in Canada, was never tested by federal inspectors. It's not clear what ultimately happened to the

shipment. Since the outbreak, the FDA has ordered recalls of a long list of products containing nuts from Peanut Corp. Federal inspectors have reported they found roaches, mold, a leaking roof and other sanitation issues at the company's processing plant.

February 3, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 3, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Children who vacation at the beach have more moles and could therefore be more likely to develop skin cancer later, according to new research. Doctors found that 7-year-olds who take trips to the shore have 5 percent more nevi, which are commonly called moles. A news release about the study said nevi are a major risk factor for melanoma. Lori Cane of the Colorado School of Public Health conducted the study on 681 white children who live in that state. Researchers found that each waterside vacation before age 7 was linked to a 5 percent increase in nevi. "Daily sun exposure at home did not seem to be related to the number of moles, while waterside vacations were. Vacations may impart some unique risk for melanoma," Crane said. Young boys had a 19 percent higher risk than young girls for nevi development. Higher incomes were also associated with greater risk. "Parents of young children need to be cautious about taking their kids on vacations that are going to be sunintensive at waterside locations, where people are outside for whole days at a time in skin-exposing swimsuits," she said. She said that while sunscreen helps, it doesn't end the risk of sun exposure, especially when people are outside all day, especially during the times of most intense sunlight, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The paper was published in the journal Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers and Prevention.

February 10, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 10, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Federal agents have raided a Georgia peanut processing plant linked to the nationwide salmonella outbreak, hauling away boxes and other material. A senior congressional aide with knowledge of the raids said the FBI executed search warrants Monday at both the plant in Blakely, Ga., and at Peanut Corp. of America's headquarters in Lynchburg, Va. The official spoke only on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly on the matter. Atlanta television station WSB's cameras captured FBI agents entering the facility and leaving with the boxes. The FBI didn't immediately return a message seeking comment on the raids. The salmonella outbreak has sickened 575 people and may have caused as many as eight deaths.

February 17, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 17, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: The tough economy and rising unemployment has put a strain on a local food bank, officials said Tuesday. Many shelves at the Harvest Hope Food Bank in Greenville are bare. Food bank director Vickie Brannen said she has seen a 40 percent increase in the need for food. She said many of the new people asking for help were the same people who donated to the food bank before the economic crisis began. "There are days that we know there are people who are still going hungry," said Brannen. "There will never be a day where everybody has enough food." Anyone interested in donating to the food bank can visit its Web site at harvesthope.org.

February 19, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 19, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: A company in Greer was evacuated on Wednesday afternoon a carbon monoxide buildup sent 12 people to area hospitals, firefighters said. The incident occurred at Aiken Chemical Company at 12 Shelter Drive just before 5 p.m. That is located near the intersection of Interstate 85 and Highway 14. Firefighters said the plant was running normally when four people passed out in the production area of the facility. They said crews responded and evacuated the plant. Pelham-Batesville Fire Chief Phil Jolley said preliminary test seem to indicate that carbon monoxide was present inside the plant. They said forklifts being operated inside the plant may have been the cause of the gas. Hazmat teams from both Spartanburg and Greenville responded to the scene. A decontamination area was also set up for those evacuating the company. Firefighters said East Phillips Street, Shelter Drive and Shelter Court were closed during the investigation. Doctors said carbon monoxide can cause long-term liver and kidney problems.

February 20, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 20, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News Description: Consumer prices rose by the most in six months in January, propelled by higher energy costs. But over the past year inflation has been flat, the lowest reading in more than a half-century. The Labor Department said consumer prices rose by 0.3 percent last month, the biggest monthly increase since a 0.7 percent rise in July. Even with the January increase, which was in line with economists' expectations, inflation for the 12 months ending in January was zero. That's the lowest reading since prices actually fell by 0.4 percent for a 12-month period ending in August 1955.

February 20, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 20, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: State <u>health</u> officials said influenza is spreading across South Carolina. Dr. Robert Ball with the Department of Health and Environmental Control said the flu is now widespread across the state. DHEC information released Thursday show the number of cases of flu is highest along the coast. DHEC said more than 40 percent of the cases reported this year have been resistant to Tamiflu, a popular antiviral drug. Influenza and its complications kill about 600 South Carolinians annually. Health officials said people who develop flulike symptoms, including high temperature and <u>dry cough</u>, should visit their doctor for a rapid flu test. Ball said it is not too late for South Carolinians to get a flu vaccine, since the outbreak is expected to continue through next month. The vaccine takes about two weeks to work.

February 25, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 25, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: U.S. mortgage applications fell last week, reflecting a sharp drop in demand for refinancing as mortgage rates ticked higher, an industry group said on Wednesday. The decline followed recent robust gains and came amid the unveiling of the strongest government action yet to aid homeowners since the housing market's meltdown began failed to buoy demand. The Mortgage Bankers Association said its seasonally adjusted index of mortgage applications, which includes both purchase and refinance loans, for the week ended Feb. 20 decreased 15.1% to 743.5 after surging 45.7% the previous week. The MBA's seasonally adjusted purchase index fell 2.6% to 250.5 after rising 9.1% the previous week. The four-week moving average of mortgage applications, which smooths the volatile weekly figures, was up 0.4%. The Mortgage Bankers seasonally adjusted index of refinancing applications plunged 19.1% to 3.618.0 after soaring 64.3% the previous week. President Obama last week announced the Homeowner Affordability and Stability Plan, which is designed to provide much-needed support to the housing market. The plan aims to support refinancing for good quality borrowers; help distressed borrowers avoid foreclosure; and stimulate new housing demand through the expansion of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Lawrence J. White, professor of economics at New York University's Stern School of Business, said if he were to grade the housing plan he would give it a "B" or a "B-plus." "The housing plan leaves out a major piece, which is the problem of what to do with somebody who holds a second mortgage, a substantial problem, especially on a lot of these foreclosures or close to foreclosure mortgages," he said on Tuesday. "The housing plan does not go far enough." Borrowing costs on 30-year fixed-rate mortgages, excluding fees, averaged 5.07% in the latest week, up 0.08 percentage point from the previous week. Six weeks earlier, mortgage rates were 4.89%, the lowest level recorded in the MBA's survey's history. The U.S. housing market is in the worst downturn since the Great Depression and its impact has rippled through the recession-hit economy, as well as the rest of the world. Economists contend that the economy might not emerge from its slump unless the housing market stabilizes. "No question about it, buying a home is a riskier proposition right now than it was four years ago, but it can still happen," White said. "The fact that there is now much more explicit government attention at the mortgage level, rather than just at the bank or troubled securities level, is valuable and can help turn things around," he said.

The adjustable-rate mortgage share of activity increased to 1.9%, up from 1.7% the previous week. Fixed 15-year mortgage rates averaged 4.71%, up 4.66% the previous week. Rates on one-year ARMs increased to 6.13% from 6.10%.

February 25, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 25, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: President Barack Obama wants a significant "down payment" for overhauling the health-care system: \$634 billion over 10 years. A senior administration official said Obama's budget calls for financing the overhaul by trimming Medicare spending and limiting tax-deductions for upper-income earners. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the budget won't be released until Thursday. About 48 million Americans are uninsured, according to recent estimates. The cost of guaranteeing coverage for all could easily exceed \$1 trillion over 10 years. Obama has asked Congress for health reform this year, but senior members of both political parties say they are concerned about the cost.

March 10, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 10, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Maytag is recalling about 1.6 million refrigerators because of a fire risk. The company said an electrical failure in the relay, the component that turns on the refrigerator's compressor, can cause overheating and pose a serious fire hazard. Maytag has received 41 reports of refrigerator relay ignition, including 16 reports of property damage ranging from smoke damage to extensive kitchen damage. The recall includes Maytag, Jenn-Air, Amana, Admiral, Magic Chef, Performa by Maytag and Crosley brand side-by-side and top freezer refrigerators. Refrigerators with freezers on the bottom are not included in this

recall. The affected refrigerators were manufactured in black, bisque, white and stainless steel. The recall includes the following model and serial numbers, printed on a label located on the top middle or left upper side of the refrigerator liner:

	Serial Numbers ENDING with	AND Model Numbers BEGINNING with
Side by Side Refrigerators	AA, AC, AE, AG, AJ, AL, AN, AP, AR, AT, AV, AX, CA, CC, CE, CG, CJ, CL, ZB, ZD, ZF, ZH, ZK, ZM, ZQ, ZS, ZU, ZW, ZY, ZZ	ARS, CS, JC, JS, MS, MZ, PS
Top Freezer Refrigerators	AA, AC, AE, AG, AJ, AL, AN, AP, AR, AT, AV, AX, ZK, ZM, ZQ, ZS, ZU, ZW, ZY, ZZ	AT, CT, MT, PT

The recalled refrigerators were sold at department and appliance stores and by homebuilders <u>nationwide</u> from January 2001 through January 2004 for between about \$350 and \$1,600. Consumers should immediately contact Maytag to determine if their refrigerator is included in the recall and to <u>schedule</u> a free in-home repair. Consumers should not return the refrigerator to the retailer where it was purchased. For more information, contact Maytag at 866-533-9817 anytime or at <u>www.repair.maytag.com</u>.

March 10, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 10, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: The South Carolina Department of Transportation Said Monday that a stretch of Interstate 385 in Greenville County is scheduled to be resurfaced. Several FOX Carolina viewers have sent e-mails to the newsroom complaining about the potholes on a stretch of the interstate near Woodruff Road. A day after FOX Carolina aired a story about the pothole problems, SCDOT began patching some of the problem areas. On Monday, Ryan Dannelly, a Greenville County maintenance engineer, said SCDOT will resurface I-385 between Fairview Road and Woodruff Road this summer. Dannelly said crews could begin the work to the oldest stretch of the interstate in Greenville County in a matter of weeks. "It's gotten to the point where we really have no choice," Dannelly said. "We have to get out there. Patching it the way we have in the past isn't going to work anymore." The project is scheduled to take place mainly at night, so it will have minimal impact on the morning and afternoon commutes. There was no word on how long the project will take to complete.

 March 17, 2009
 10:00pm
 The Ten O'clock News

 March 17, 2009
 5:00a-9:00am
 The Morning News

Description: The Better Business Bureau is warning Upstate <u>business owners</u> to be wary of letters they may have received from the U.S. Department of Transportation. Bill Jones, owner of Greer Awning and Siding, said he received one of these letters. He said that in the letter a man named Joshua Greenberg asks for financial information about the business. He said that Greenberg claims to be a procurement officer for the USDOT. "There wasn't a <u>phone</u> number, just a fax number to send this info back to," Jones said. Jones said that when he got a second letter like this, he decided to contact the Better Business Bureau. Kathy Barrett, with the BBB, said the scam is thriving in the recession. She said scam artists are hoping to cash in on struggling businesses looking for help. "Unfortunately, it is working because a lot of businesses have fallen victim to this," Barret said. "One maybe as much as \$20,000." Barrett said the names of the procurement officer even changes from letter to letter. She showed FOX Carolina a list of various names being used on the bogus letters, and Joshua Greenberg was on it. "The Department of Transportation has stated they will never ask for information in this manner," Barrett said. Barrett said she is glad that Jones did the right thing by reporting the letter to the BBB. "Check it out before you do anything," Jones said. "That's the main thing."

March 17, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 17, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: After a number of recent food scares, some Upstate grocery shoppers said Monday a little extra labeling wouldn't hurt. "You want to know where your food that you are eating comes from," said Addie Clay, one shopper. "Just like the peanut butter or spinach. You want to know if the products you bought are coming from your area." Under new federal labeling guidelines, meat, for example, must have a label that tells the consumer where it came from. If a chicken was raised in Mexico, it must say that on the package. "I came from Japan and in Japan it's mandatory to have a label saying which country or region (it comes from)," said Masako Watanabe, another shopper. Some fruits, vegetables and seafood will also have to have the new labels. "(It will be) easy to trace back if something happens," said Wantanbe. "It is very important for public health." The Department of Agriculture said it wants to extend the new guidelines to include processed foods. It is asking producers to voluntarily comply with the guidelines.

March 23, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

March 23, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: A cigarette tax increase of 50 cents a pack to cover a new state health insurance program is expected to sail through hearings. House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dan Cooper of Piedmont said he expects the bill to clear the House. House Speaker Bobby Harrell of Charleston introduced the bill to raise the tax from the nation's lowest at 7 cents per pack. Democratic House Minority Leader Harry Ott, of St. Matthews, supports the plan to use \$139 million of the money raised for health insurance for low-income residents. Ott said he can support Harrell's proposal even though it does not expand Medicaid coverage for children in low-income households. The Legislature passed a bill that did both last year, but it was vetoed by Gov. Mark Sanford. If passed, this bill would also have to go before Sanford before it became law.

 March 25, 2009
 10:00pm
 The Ten O'clock News

 March 25, 2009
 5:00a-9:00am
 The Morning News

Description: Torres Hillsdale Country Cheese LLC is recalling its Asadero and Oaxaca soft Mexican-style cheeses due to possible listeria contamination. The products were distributed to retailers and delis in Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Wisconsin. The recalled cheeses were sold in 10-pound balls and 16- and 12-ounce plastic packages under the name "Aguas Calientes" and in 6-pound blocks shrink-wrapped in clear plastic under the name "El Jaliciense." Their expiration dates range from Oct. 29 through May 10. No illnesses have been reported in connection with the recalled products. Eating food contaminated with listeria monocytogenes can cause listeriosis, a potentially fatal disease.

 March 31, 2009
 10:00pm
 The Ten O'clock News

 March 31, 2009
 5:00a-9:00am
 The Morning News

Description: Federal officials have closed a South Carolina meat processing plant and requested a recall of nearly 3,000 pounds of meat that were incorrectly labeled. U.S. Agriculture Department spokeswoman Amanda Eamich said Monday that the recalled meat from Halal International Processing in York poses a minimal health risk to consumers. Authorities said some products that were labeled poultry were actually other types of meat. The company also operated during hours that prevented some inspections. Company manager Yusef Suleiman said the company is reassessing procedures at the plant. The recall includes all frozen meat and poultry items produced from April 3, 2008 to March 7. Operations at the plant have been suspended since Friday.

 March 31, 2009
 10:00pm
 The Ten O'clock News

 March 31, 2009
 5:00a-9:00am
 The Morning News

Description: GM and Ford Motor Co. are offering payment protection plans to help reassure consumers who may be putting off a car purchase because of worries about losing their job. The offer comes as auto sales have been battered by the recession and tight credit. New CEO Fritz Henderson announced GM's program Tuesday, the same day Ford said it will cover payments of up to \$700 each month for up to a year on any new Ford, Lincoln or Mercury vehicle if consumers lose their job. The program runs until June 1. GM's program is similar to Ford's, except that GM will provide up to nine months of payments on vehicle loans or leases up to \$500 per month. GM's plan is available for vehicles purchased in April 2009. "When looking for a job, you need a vehicle more than ever. Payment Protection helps you get back on your feet," GM said in a statement on its Web site. Hyundai Motor Co. has been offering a deal that allows buyers to return a vehicle within a year if they can't make the payments due to a job loss or disability. Dearborn, Mich.-based Ford is also offering zero percent financing on certain vehicles. Ford is the only member of the Big Three automakers that has not requested federal bailout funds.

Attachments

Crime

PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED FIRST QUARTER 2009

Problem/Need: CRIME

<u>DATE</u> <u>TIME</u> <u>PROGRAM</u>

Saturdays 8:00pm COPS Saturdays 8:30pm COPS

(airs weekly)

Monday – Friday 1:00pm COPS Monday – Friday 1:30pm COPS

DESCRIPTION: COPS follows law enforcement officers as they answer calls and deal with the subjects and victims involved

in the complaints and crimes. (30:00)

Saturdays 9:00pm AMERICA'S MOST WANTED

(airs weekly)

DESCRIPTION: AMERICA'S MOST WANTED is hosted by John Walsh. The show profiles fugitives and wanted criminals who are being sought by federal, state, or local authorities. The program gives viewers a phone number to call to provide information. (60:00)

Saturdays 2:30am MISSING

(airs weekly)

DESCRIPTION: Missing is a weekly half-hour reality series featuring actual cases of missing individuals, both adult and juvenile, from across the United States. (30:00)

Monday – Sunday 10:00 pm FOX CAROLINA'S MOST WANTED

Monday – Friday 5:00a-9:00am

DESCRIPTION: The FOX Carolina's Most Wanted airs during the Ten O'clock News on various nights Monday thru Sunday and The Morning News Monday thru Friday. Each segment profiles locally wanted criminals and gives viewers a phone number to call to provide information. Each segment is 45 seconds.

January 9, 200910:00pmThe Ten O'clock NewsJanuary 9, 20095:00a-9:00amThe Morning News

Description: Deputies said they have uncovered a plot by a teenager to attack Brevard High School. According to the Transylvania County Sheriff's Office, they were told about the plot by a girl who said she learned of the attack after chatting with the accused teen on MySpace. She told investigators that he planned to "shoot up" the school. Investigators said they went to the 15-year-old teenager's home and found a DVD with attack plans. The teenager, whose name is not being released, is in custody and undergoing a mental-health evaluation, deputies said. No charges have been filed in the case.

January 9, 200910:00pmThe Ten O'clock NewsJanuary 9, 20095:00a-9:00amThe Morning News

Description: An upstate man has been charged in connection with a March 2008 fire. The fire happened at Genesis Printing at 7112 Augusta Road on Mar. 29. Investigators said someone set fire to two printing machines that caused more than \$3 million in damage to the plant. Deputies said after an extensive investigation they have charged 43-year-old James Guzzy in connection with the case. According to the arrest warrant, Guzzy unlawfully entered the business, damaged a security camera and then set the fires. Deputies said Guzzy was an employee of Genesis Printing at the time of the fires and is the brother-in-law of the owner. Guzzy is charged with second-degree arson and second-degree burglary. He was being held at the Greenville County Detention Center on \$75,000 bond.

January 13, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News January 13, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Deputies said a five-month-long drug investigation led to the arrest of 30 people. Dan Johnson of the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office said the investigation was into the crack cocaine trade on the south side of the county with a focus on neighborhoods in Woodruff and Moore. Johnson said the undercover operation came to an end with the arrests on Tuesday morning. Johnson said the

following people were charged in connection with the investigation: 21-year-old Joeron Brown, 21-year-old James Cullen, 61-year-old Raymond Douglas, 22-year-old Tavis Jeter, 49-year-old Brad Longshore, 49-year-old Tammy Longshore, 34-year-old Ronnie Lyles, 48-year-old Ernest McBeth, 66-year-old Ralph Norton, 36-year-old Leroy Palmer Jr., 45-year-old Raymond Pearson, 32-year-old Gregory Price, 24-year-old Franklin Rice, 57-year-old David Robinson, 58-year-old Dot Robinson, 39-year-old James Robinson, 29-year-old Anotnio Stringer and 49-year-old Ricky West. All have been charged with drug distribution.

 January 22, 2009
 10:00pm
 The Ten O'clock News

 January 22, 2009
 5:00a-9:00am
 The Morning News

Description: An 18-year-old woman said she was kidnapped and sexually assaulted early Thursday morning by two men. Investigators with the Anderson Police Department said the woman was taken from near the campus of Anderson University. At 1 a.m., the two men allegedly took the woman from near Calhoun Street and Kingsley Road to another location, sexually assaulted her, then took her back to where they found her, police said. No weapon was used. She was treated and released from AN-Med Health. Police said they are looking for two men both described as large with muscular builds and both bald. The woman said she was kidnapped using an older model black or dark blue four-door vehicle, police said. Police and university officials are advising people not to be out late at night, or to go out in pairs. They reminded students to make use of the university's security escort service and to carry cell phones to have a way to notify law enforcement. Anyone with information about Thursday's crime is asked to call the Anderson Police Department at 864-260-4444.

January 23, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News January 23, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Deputies said a man claiming onions made his son sick stole \$22 from a McDonald's restaurant on Wednesday. The theft happened at 692 Fairview Road. According to an incident report, a man walked into the McDonald's and said he had ordered four hamburger meals without onions. The man told the restaurant's manager that all the meals he ordered had onions on them and that they made his son sick. The man demanded that he be refunded the money he paid for the meals, according to the incident report. The report said the man the restaurant's manager asked the man if he had the original food or a receipt proving he had purchased the food. The man became agitated and the manager decided to give him the money so he would leave. The restaurant's owner decided to file a report about the incident after seeing news reports about similar incidents in other parts of Greenville County, the report said. The man was described as white, in his 40s, about 5 feet 8 inches tall and about 180 pounds. Anyone with information about this case was asked to call Crime Stoppers at 23-CRIME.

January 23, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News January 23, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: An Aiken County sheriff's deputy is being treated for multiple gunshot wounds after a Friday morning shooting. Lt. Troy Elwell, with the Aiken County Sheriff's Office, said the deputy was shot after exchanging fire with a robbery suspect just south of downtown Aiken. Elwell said the deputy was shot at first and returned fire, killing the suspect. The deputy's injuries do not appear to be life-threatening, Elwell said. The sheriff's office planned to update media on the shooting later Friday. The names of the deputy and the suspect have not been released. The State Law Enforcement Division is also investigating.

January 23, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News January 23, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Police said Friday that an Anderson University student who claimed that she was kidnapped and then raped off campus lied to officials. The 18-year-old student said two men kidnapped her near the school's campus around 1 a.m. Thursday, took her to another location, sexually assaulted her and took her back to where they found her. The woman was treated at An-Med Health. Anderson police spokesman Randall Williams said that a joint investigation with Anderson University Campus Security has concluded that the kidnapping and rape never happened. Williams said criminal charges against the student regarding the false report will be sought.

February 11, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 11, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: The state parole board has refused to let former Lt. Gov. Earle Morris out of prison early. Morris was convicted in 2004 of securities fraud in the collapse of Carolina Investors. Morris was chairman of the company when its parent firm, HomeGold, went under and 8,000 investors lost \$275 million. Morris was sentenced to 44 months in prison, but did not start his sentence until January 2008 when he lost his appeal. The Greenville News reported that attorney Joel Collins told the parole board Wednesday that 80-year-old Morris' prostate cancer has worsened and prison had been a life-changing experience. Parole board members said Morris' crimes were too serious for him to be released now. Morris will have another parole hearing next February. He is scheduled to end his sentence in April 2010.

February 11, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 11, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News Description: Five people have been charged in connection with the January slaying of a Woodruff couple, investigators with the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office said Wednesday. Deputies said the bodies of 21-year-old Teresa Martinez and 24-year-old Hugo Hernandez were found by family members just before 6 p.m. on Jan. 25. They said the couple had been shot multiple times. Investigators said that Hernandez owed 32-year-old Juan Vazquez money for some marijuana. When Vazquez never received payment for the drugs, he assembled a group of three people to collect the debt, investigators said. They said 25-year-old Edgar Aviles, 37-year-old Yesenia Ramirez and 28-year-old Eli Pineda, all of Emerson, Ga., were sent to the couple's home to recover the drugs or the money. Investigators said Vazquez offered the group half of anything they recovered for their effort and an SUV. Vazquez and 37-year-old Jose Arevalos, who investigators said helped organize the hit, were already being held at the Spartanburg County Jail after being arrested on Jan. 30 on drug trafficking charges. Aviles, Ramierez and Pineda were also being held at the Spartanburg County Jail after waiving extradition. All five people have been charged with two counts of murder. Bond was not assigned to any of the suspects.

February 12, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 12, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: The woman who admitted to stealing the identity of a missing Upstate woman received four years in prison on Wednesday. Esther Reed was sentenced in federal court in Greenville. Reed pleaded guilty to using Brooke Henson's identity to get into Columbia University and Harvard. Henson went missing on July 4, 1999, from her family's home in Travelers Rest. Court documents said Reed stole Henson's identity because she was trying to shed a "dysfunctional" family and start a new life. Reed was also ordered to pay \$125,000 in restitution. Investigators have said they do not believe that Reed had anything to do with Henson's disappearance.

February 12, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 12, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Two defense lawyers in Columbia said Richland County sheriff's deputies are making arrests as they investigate Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps. A photograph of Phelps in Columbia surfaced earlier this month that showed him with a marijuana pipe. Attorneys Joseph McCulloch and Dick Harpootlian said they represent clients arrested last week on marijuana possession charges. Both attorneys said their clients were questioned about Phelps and the party near the University of South Carolina in November. Neither attorney named their clients, who face up to 30 days in jail and a \$200 fine if convicted. The Richland County Sheriff's Office would not talk about the lawyer's comments with The Associated Press on Thursday. Phelps has not disputed the photo's accuracy and has apologized for his behavior. Since the picture surfaced, the record-breaking Olympic swimmer was suspended for three months by USA Swimming and has lost an endorsement deal with Kellogg's.

February 12, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 12, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Deputies said two men have been charged with malicious damage after they used a bat to bash 22 mailboxes. Deputies said 20-year-old Alex Bailey and 19-year-old James Hays were arrested in the area of Spring Lake Loop after residents called in a suspicious vehicle. They said the pair were initially charged with possession of alcohol by a person under the age of 21. After their arrests, they were charged in connection with the damage of 22 mailboxes on Spring Lake Loop after a metal bat was found in their car. Both Bailey and Hays were charged with malicious damage to personal property. Hays' bond was set at \$42,000 and Bailey's was set at \$23,000.

February 12, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 12, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Deputies said they uncovered a rolling methamphetamine lab after conducting a traffic stop. Deputies said they stopped a truck on suspicion of speeding near the Laurens County line on Dunklin Bridge Road on Thursday night. Investigators said officers searched the vehicle and found parts of a methamphetamine lab in the back. Both the driver and the passengers were arrested at the scene. Neither of their names has been released. Deputies called in a hazmat team to clean up the drug lab.

February 17, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 17, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: One of Greenville's most wanted was found in Mexico and has been extradited to the Upstate to be charged with assault. Greenville police said Andres Hernandez was arrested by U.S. Marshals in Mexico City on Friday and brought him back to South Carolina. Hernandez was wanted in connection with an assault that police said happened at the Pines On Pelham apartments in April 2005. The apartment complex has since changed its name to Ashworth Apartments. The mother of a 5-year-old girl who lived at the apartments said Hernandez assaulted her daughter at his apartment. Police said Hernandez fled to Mexico when he realized police were looking for him. Hernandez has been charged with criminal sexual conduct. Greenville Police Chief Terri Wilfong credits modern technology and communication between law enforcement for the arrest. A bond hearing for Hernandez has not been scheduled yet. If convicted, Hernandez could face up to 30 years in prison.

February 18, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 18, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: The former mayor of Union was sentenced to more than five years in prison, while his co-defendant received only a yearlong sentence. Prosecutors said 57-year-old Bruce Morgan, former mayor of Union, and 40-year-old Jeffery Lawson, Union's former building and zoning director, appeared in federal court on Wednesday. Both men were named in a seven-count indictment released on July 18, 2008, which charged them with conspiring to extort over \$30,000 in bribes or kickbacks from contractors seeking to do business with the city of Union. Before the indictment was released, both Morgan and Lawson resigned their positions with the city. Both men entered guilty pleas in September. During the hearing on Wednesday, prosecutors said Lawson helped build the case against Morgan by wearing a recording device while making payments to Morgan. The judge sentenced Morgan to 71 months in prison and three years of supervised released when the prison sentence is completed. Lawson was sentenced to 12 months and one day in prison, followed by three years of supervised release. Both men were also ordered to pay restitution and forfeit the proceeds of their illegal activities. Prosecutors said that both Morgan and Lawson are cooperating with authorities and the investigation into illegal activities in Union County is ongoing.

February 23, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 23, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Law officers are talking about ways to combat South Carolina's gang problems. Organizers said officers from federal, state and local Law enforcement agencies are getting together on Sunday in Greenville to discuss state and national gang trends. The South Carolina Gang Investigators' Association said the conference will also focus on ways to raise awareness and intervene against gang activity. The nonprofit group serves as a liaison between citizens and law enforcement to provide training and research to combat criminal gang activity. The conference in Greenville lasts through Wednesday.

February 23, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 23, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Greenwood County authorities said a seventh-grade science teacher has been charged with having sex with one of her former student. The county sheriff's office said 37-year-old Angel Simmons Lindle, of Donalds, has been charged with seven counts of criminal sexual conduct with a child. Ninety Six School District 52 Superintendent Dan Powell said the Edgewood Middle School teacher has been suspended pending the outcome of the charges. Sheriff Tony Davis said police received the complaint Thursday and an investigation began Friday that resulted in Lindle's arrest. Davis said the former student, now 15, told authorities of "numerous incidents" between he and the teacher when he was 14 years old.

March 6, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 6, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: A South Carolina jury has found former HomeGold Financial Inc. Chairman Jack Sterling guilty of securities fraud and not guilty of conspiracy charges for his role in a bankruptcy that cost investors \$275 million. Sterling held a finger to his lip but did not react as the verdicts were read Friday in a Lexington courtroom. An upset family member could be heard softly crying out after the guilty verdict. Sterling faces up to 10 years in prison on the fraud charge. Prosecutors said Sterling knew HomeGold and subsidiary Carolina Investors were failing, but did not tell investors. Defense attorneys said the 70-year-old Greenville executive did all he could to save the companies and never lied. The firms went under in 2003 in the largest bankruptcy in South Carolina history.

March 6, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 6, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Twenty-one suspects have been charged in connection with what Florida authorities called "Operation Hot Milk," a multimillion dollar baby formula theft ring operating in several states. Polk County sheriff's deputies said they started investigating the case in 2008 after finding stolen baby formula during a traffic stop. Deputies said the suspects, all in the country illegally, admitted traveling from Georgia to Florida to steal baby formula. The suspects said they were paid between \$100 to \$300 daily and sometimes hit 15 stores a day. The formula was held in storage units then hauled out of state. Deputies found 900 cans, worth \$17,500, in one unit. The ring leader told authorities he drove the formula weekly to North Carolina, where it was repackaged and sold. He and three others were arrested Thursday.

 March 10, 2009
 10:00pm
 The Ten O'clock News

 March 10, 2009
 5:00a-9:00am
 The Morning News

Description: A South Carolina man was sentenced to 60 years in prison after pleading guilty to more than 85 charges related to copper thefts around Spartanburg. Authorities said that 27-year-old Jackie Anderson Jr. also violated probation, so he will not be eligible for parole. Prosecutors said Anderson took plumbing and air conditioner parts, mostly from low income housing.

They said the thefts did nearly \$200,000 worth of damage to get about \$5,000 of copper. Public defender Roger Poole said Anderson cooperated with authorities by riding around neighborhoods and pointing out the houses he hit. Anderson's charges included more than 40 counts of second-degree burglary and 45 counts of grand larceny.

March 11, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 11, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Police said they are looking for three people who broke into a hardware store and stole all the guns that were inside. The theft happened at the Ace Hardware store on Thompson Boulevard on Monday. Surveillance video showed three people breaking into the store and running straight to the store's gun case. Police said one of the thieves broke open the gun case using a pair of bolt cutters, while the other two began stealing the guns. Investigators said the robbers made off with five shotguns. The manager of the store told FOX Carolina that this is the second time the store has been burglarized. He said the store will no longer be selling guns. Anyone with information about the burglary was asked to call Crime Stoppers at 864-427-0800.

 March 17, 2009
 10:00pm
 The Ten O'clock News

 March 17, 2009
 5:00a-9:00am
 The Morning News

Description: A former supervisor at a Greenville poultry plant has been sentenced to two years in prison for aggravated identity theft. U.S. Attorney Walt Wilkins said 51-year-old John Jairo Johnson-Amaya was sentenced Monday. The supervisor at the Columbia Farms poultry processing plant pleaded guilty in December. Federal agents said Johnson-Amaya used another person's Social Security number on employment forms. Johnson-Amaya faces deportation after serving his sentence. More than 300 people suspected of being illegal immigrants were found in an October raid at the Greenville County plant. House of Raeford, which is based in Raeford, N.C., owns the plant. The company processes chickens and turkeys in eight plants in the Carolinas, Georgia, Louisiana and Michigan.

March 17, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 17, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Police said a man stole money from a girl selling Girl Scout cookies in Greer on Saturday afternoon. The theft happened in front of the Bi-Lo grocery store at 1365 Wade Hampton Blvd. at about 3 p.m. According to an incident report, a woman and her daughter were selling cookies in front of the store when a man approached them and asked to buy some. As the girl turned around to get him a box of cookies, he grabbed a Christmas tin containing \$300. The woman told police that the man ran down the sidewalk and around to the back of the grocery store. Two witnesses said they saw the thief jump into the passenger side of a white SUV, the incident report said. The man was described as white, 25 to 35 years old, with dirty blond hair, 5 feet 8 inches tall and 170 pounds. He was last seen wearing blue jeans, a denim coat and a baseball cap. Bi-Lo Charities announced on Tuesday that it donated a \$300 check to the Girl Scout troop affected by the theft. Anyone with information about this case was asked to call Greer police.

March 24, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 24, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: The Anderson Police Department and the Anderson County Sheriff's Office joined up on Monday to form the county's new gang task force. The two agencies will work out of an office located at the city's police department. Backers of the move said that by working together the agencies will be able to share information to help get a handle on the gang problem in the county. "We're here for the community," said Mark Gregory, a member of the gang task force. "(We're) here to answer their questions. If there's a problem in the area, we're here to help them solve their problems." Gregory said the task force's main goal is to talk to kids before they get involved in gangs. Officials said anyone with concerns about gangs in their area can call the task force at 864-231-5208.

March 24, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 24, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Deputies are looking for four men who broke into a home on Monday night and got away with hundreds of dollars in cash. Investigators said the group of men barged into an apartment at the Grove Station apartments on Lakeside Road around 10 p.m. Deputies said all four men were wearing black masks. They said at least one of them showed a gun and demanded money from the residents. This was not the first crime that deputies were investigating at the complex on Monday, officials said. "We did have a burglary in this apartment earlier this morning," said Lt. Tim Ridgeway with the Greenville County Sheriff's Office. "Two different incidents at the same apartment but we can't really put them together with the same people yet." Ridgeway said the men from Monday night's home invasion got away in a silver Cadillac Escalade. Anyone with information on either crime was asked to call Crime Stoppers at 23-CRIME.

March 24, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 24, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: His bruises are black and blue and he said they are very painful. "I came in and put my book bag down," said the boy at the center of an investigation. "She started smacking me." The 6-year-old, who will not be identified, said last week that Elizabeth Smith hit him at least twice after he accidentally wet himself. "One smack was so hard it made my glasses fall into a laundry basket," said the boy with tears in his eyes. According to an incident report, Smith, who is a former teacher at a Spartanburg County elementary school, told the boy's mother that she disciplined the boy because he left the bus stop before the school bus arrived. "He's only 6 years old and it was done over a very non-situation," the boy's mother told FOX Carolina. The boy's mother said she trusted Smith to take care of her son because she is a family member. "She completely blackened the left side of his face," the boy's mother said. "I'm very angry." Smith resigned as a teacher for personal reasons before the boy made the accusations, school officials said. They said the boy was never her student. Smith has been charged with simple assault and battery and has been released on \$1,000 bond.

March 25, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 25, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: A Taylors firefighter spoke exclusively with FOX Carolina about the man he said kidnapped and robbed him at knife point on Tuesday night. Greenville County deputies said the incident happened at the Wal-Mart in Taylors on Wade Hampton Boulevard about 8 p.m. and ended at the intersection of Overbrook Road and East North Street when the kidnapper jumped out of the victim's truck and ran away. Mike Polston, the victim, told FOX Carolina he was loading groceries into his truck in the Wal-Mart parking lot when a man came up to him. He said he had never seen the man before. Polston said the man told him he had just recently gotten out of prison and that he was not from the Greenville area. The firefighter said the man asked him for a cigarette and then asked him for cash. He said that when he told the man he did not have any cash, the man demanded that he drive him to an ATM or he would "stick him." Polston said that he drove to the ATM at First Citizens Bank on North Pleasantburg Drive and gave the man \$30. He said that the man then forced him to drive around town for about 20 minutes. Polson said that along the way, he stopped at a Taco Casa for a soda. He said that the man staved in the truck while he went inside to get a drink. After telling employees at the restaurant what was going on, Polston said he went back outside and got back into the truck with the robber. Polston said that during the drive, he was texting his girlfriend, telling her that he had been kidnapped. "The text message at 8:17 was, 'What road are you crossing?' Polston said. "I got another one (that said), 'What road?' She even texted me one (that read) 'I love you!" Polston said that he even managed to call 911 and put the phone in the seat so dispatchers could hear their conversation. Polston admits that he had several chances to escape, including the stop at the restaurant. He said that one always thinks they will know what to do in that situation; however, he said his nerves got the best of him. "I was just shocked," Polston said. "I was real nervous, real shaken. I just didn't feel like I had the strength to do anything but keep my hands on my steering wheel. What would I have lost? My truck? So what? They would have found it. I really don't know what I was thinking. I wanted to slam on the brakes in the truck, and make him hit the dash and drag him out of the truck and beat him to death." Polston said that when the man noticed he had called someone on his cell phone, he grew suspicious and jumped out of the truck. He said that the man then ran down Overbrook Drive. Greenville police officers and deputies said they tracked the man's scent along that road but lost it. The search was called off around 9:30 p.m. Tuesday. Police said the man is 5 feet 5 inches tall and may be in his 40s. They said he has a goatee and was last seen wearing a tan button-up shirt and jeans. Anyone with information about this case was asked to call Crime Stoppers at 23-CRIME.

March 31, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 31, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Police said Monday that several people have reported the theft of a catalytic converter from their cars in recent weeks. George Auger, one of those people, said that when he started his car last week after work, he immediately knew something was wrong. "I turned the key on and it was like being in NASCAR," said Auger. "Wow! What a sound. It scared the daylights out of me." Auger said after hearing the noise, he looked under his car. "Sure enough, the pipe was completely cut down one side of it," Auger said. Auger said someone swiped his catalytic converter in a busy Greenville parking lot. He said it cost him \$1,200 to get repaired. Greenville police said that someone has been going from parking lot to parking lot and cutting the converters off cars. They said most thieves sell them as scrap metal because of the platinum inside. Investigators said the thieves have been targeting Toyotas throughout the city. Anyone who notices anything suspicious is asked to call police immediately.

 March 31, 2009
 10:00pm
 The Ten O'clock News

 March 31, 2009
 5:00a-9:00am
 The Morning News

Description: Two Cherokee County animal control officers have been fined \$237 each after pleading guilty to ill treatment of animals. Authorities told the Herald-Journal of Spartanburg that 52-year-old Donnie Crow and 30-year-old Michael Pearson directly injected dogs with drugs to euthanize them without first sedating the animals. Officials said that Pearson no longer

works for the county, while Crow has been transferred to the recycling department. Lawyer Keith Kelly represented both workers and said they are sorry for what happened and are glad animal control officials changed their euthanizing procedures after the incident. Crow and Pearson must pay the fine or spend 30 days in jail.

March 31, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 31, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: A raised flag on a victim's mailbox led to a red flag in his and his wife's bank account. The victim asked to remain anonymous, but told FOX Carolina how it all began. "I had a bill to pay, so I wrote the check, took it out and put it in the mailbox probably an hour before the post person would come," he said. His payment never made it to the post office. Instead, Gaffney police said that check ended up in the hands of two counterfeiters. Gaffney police released photos of the pair after they were captured on a surveillance video. Police said the two used a computer program to create a number of counterfeit checks using the victim's bank account number from the check they're accused of swiping from his mailbox. The victim said the couple then wrote checks to the Nike Outlet and Wal-Mart in Gaffney, a BiLo Grocery Store in Spartanburg and two different locations in Travelers Rest. The victim said the duo got away with nearly \$1,000 before he and his wife noticed money was missing from their account after checking their online baking statement and realized what was happening. Gaffney police are asking anyone who might recognize the man and woman you see in the picture to call them at 864-489-8115.

Attachments

Education

FIRST QUARTER 2009

Problem/Need: **EDUCATION**

<u>DATE</u> <u>TIME</u> <u>PROGRAM</u>

January 5, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News January 5, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Baby boomers who return to college, or who enroll for the first time, may fear that they will feel uncomfortable among a bunch of giddy teenagers and young adults. A recent article in U.S. News and World Report indicates that among 78 million baby boomers, 2 million are taking courses as we speak. The count is up 20 percent during the past decade, and is expected to grow even more. Of course, you may want to hang out with the younger crowd, rather than with other boomers. That would simply reflect the "forever young" spirit tied to the post-World War II generation born between 1946 and 1964. Some boomers may recall the late Rodney Dangerfield in the 1986 flick "Back to School." He stars as an obnoxious but good-hearted business mogul who enrolls in college to escape from his rotten marriage, and to prevent his son from dropping out. The movie was on the cusp of its time in forecasting that boomers indeed would begin flocking back to campuses, although Dangerfield's reasons were not typical. Some boomers have returned not just to leafy campuses, but also to nitty-gritty community colleges, to re-train for new jobs in the changing global economy. Others want to pick up where they were forced to leave off as young adults, when circumstances forced them to abandon college. Still others simply are looking for intellectual enrichment. While baby boomers generally are portrayed as a self-confident bunch, college administrators realize that many may feel shier than they let on. Boomers often are surprised that younger peers see them as mentors. Older students need not feel intimidated by the technological savvy of the younger set. If they wish to brush up on math or science, seminars are available. To start, however, the more modest boomers should not expect to encounter college campuses filled with only teens and twentysomethings. The University Continuing Education Association reports that "nontraditional students" outside of this age range comprise more than half of all enrollees. The Institute for Higher Education Policy states that the number of pupils age 40 and older has tripled since 1970. In other words, nontraditional has become traditional. "Going back to college has never been easier," said the Web site back2college.com. Enrollees can find help with everything from seeking scholarships to tracking down transcripts to arranging child care. If you're still working, how much coursework can you handle? A full-time class load for a semester is 15 credit hours. The back2college.com site recommends that if you work full time, you should tackle no more than 6 credit hours, or the equivalent of two classes. A half-time worker should stop at 12 credit hours. Circumstances may vary. For that matter, you always can take classes via the Internet. But as more and more baby boomers have discovered, it really isn't college without the campus and the classrooms.

Note that if special services and counseling are not enough, some colleges truly are going to extremes. They are planning housing complexes just for baby boomers who seek "a place that is active, intellectually stimulating and intergenerational," said Andrew Carle of George Mason University. Already the Web site universitybusiness.com reports that 22 of these communities are thriving on or near campuses, ranging from the huge University of Alabama to the tiny Lasell College in Massachusetts. Boomers sure do know how to get attention.

January 11, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News January 11, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: As unemployment lines grow longer, one group of workers has a buffer against the brutal job market -- their college diplomas. While the unemployment rate hit 7.2 percent in December, among college graduates it's just 3.7 percent. That's because a degree usually leads to higher-paying and more stable jobs. Economic Policy Institute President Lawrence Mishel said college grads "have a privileged position in the labor market." That's not to say they haven't been hurt by the recession. The December jobless rate is just shy of what's believed to be the record for college grads. Labor Department data suggests the jobless rate for graduates peaked at 3.9 percent in January of 1983. But as the economy drags down the job market, Mishel said college grads could find themselves with a pink slip and few prospects. He predicts the unemployment rate for college graduates will reach a record 4 or 5 percent this year

January 12, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News January 12, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Even in the middle of the school year, parents are pulling their kids out of private schools as <u>family budgets</u> get hammered by the ever-deepening recession. The federal government said private enrollment has dropped by 120,000 students in the current school year, and that's just a preliminary number. Given total private school enrollment of about 6 million, that's about 2 percent of the student population. And more of the parents sticking with private schools are asking for financial aid, straining school endowments that have withered along with <u>the stock market</u>. However, the National Association of Independent Schools insists overall enrollment at private schools has held steady.

January 15, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News January 15, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News Description: Pursuing the dream of a college education is hard. Paying for it is getting even harder. As the slumping economy forces states to slash spending, students can expect the sharpest increases in years. Final prices will not be set until state budgets are finished in the coming months, but the trend is clear. In California, the governor's proposed budget would raise university fees about 10 percent. Florida's governor is trying to give several state schools more power to raise prices. Other states have passed unusual midyear increases, including a whopping 14-percent increase in New York. College budget cuts may also mean larger classes or fewer admission slots. Some private universities are trying to hold the line. But four in five American college students attend public schools.

January 29, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News January 29, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: South Carolina leads the nation in a national study on how well state keep good teachers and get rid of bad ones. The National Council on Teacher Quality gave states letter grades, with D-plus being the average. The group gave its highest overall mark, a B-minus, to South Carolina. The group said the state does better than any other at allowing ineffective teachers to be fired. Only lowa and New Mexico require any evidence that public school teachers are effective before granting them tenure. Teacher hiring and firing is done locally in more than 14,000 school districts nationwide. But state law governs virtually every aspect of teaching. The group said tenure is virtually automatic in most states. Maine, Montana, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont earned F's, as did the District of Columbia.

February 4, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 4, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Charleston Southern assistant Jamey Chadwell has been named head football coach at North Greenville. Athletic director Jan McDonald made the announcement Friday. Chadwell has spent the past five years at Charleston Southern, where he has served as running backs coach, recruiting coordinator, wide receivers coach and passing game coordinator. Chadwell played quarterback at East Tennessee State, where he began his coaching career and remained until 2003 when the school gave up football. Chadwell replaced Mike Taylor, the founder of the NCAA Division II program in 1988. Taylor resigned after five seasons in his second stint coaching the Crusaders.

February 6, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 6, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: As the unemployment line grows and the economy continues to tank, South Carolina <u>budget</u> cuts are getting deeper and are affecting upstate schools. FOX Carolina News received e-mails from parents concerned that budget cuts could mean Pelzer Elementary may have to shut down. On Thursday, some parents said they hoped that doesn't happen. To them, the school is a historical landmark in the area and they don't want to see it closed. The Superintendent of Anderson School District One, Wayne Fowler, released information to FOX Carolina News about budget cuts. He said the district lost more than \$3 million in revenue this school year. With more cuts from the state Department of Education projected, it could lose millions more. Administrators said they were making an effort to absorb the cuts equitably in regard to all 14 schools in the district. "Some of the other schools are already overcrowded, and these teachers down here are just wonderful and we all love them and they're like a family to us," said Deidre Thomas as she picked up her twin boys from Pelzer Elementary. "It's small enough to where the teachers get to know each of the students," said parent Marsha Calvert. "They know you on a personal basis. ... You go down the hall and everyone knows each other." Fowler released a statement that said the <u>financial crisis</u> has put the district in a very difficult situation. The administration and school board members must look at every possible solution to this economic situation, he said. FOX Carolina News asked specifically whether budget cuts would mean that Pelzer Elementary would have to close. District administrators said there haven't been any decisions made in relation to the budget, but everything is on the table. District Trustees are scheduled to meet at the Anderson School District One office on Tuesday at 7 p.m.

February 10, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News
February 10, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Clemson University plans to deal with the latest round of state budget cuts by getting rid of a significant number of administrative jobs, but will protect its core <u>education</u> program. The Anderson Independent-Mail obtained an <u>e-mail</u> from Clemson Provost Doris Helms, which did not say how many jobs would be cut from areas like registration, financial aid, graduate and undergraduate studies. Helms said in the e-mail there are about 125 people working in those departments, the newspaper reported. Clemson will not cut its core academic faculty and staff, Helms said in the e-mail. Clemson has already cut its budget by \$38 million this year and is bracing for the possibility of more cuts before the fiscal year ends June 30.

February 12, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 12, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: A water pipe that burst on Thursday morning flooded part of Spartanburg High School with an inch of water. A representative for Spartanburg County District 7 Schools said the two-inch water line burst near the main office and flooded the office and atrium with an inch of water. Officials said the line carried clean water and posed no threat to students or staff. Students were rerouted around the affected area until it was cleaned up by mid-morning. There was no word on what caused the pipe to break.

February 17, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 17, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: During an election season, Donna Brazile is one of the most recognizable faces on CNN. Hundreds attended an event at Furman University's McAlister Auditorium to hear the cable news political commentator speak. Brazile was the campaign manager for Al Gore when he ran for president in 2000. She became the first African-American woman to lead a major presidential campaign. "If a black man can become president of the United State, then all of us, we are not free to believe that we can achieve any goal that we set for ourselves," Brazile said. The speech was part of Furman's Black Awareness Month events.

February 17, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 17, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Spartanburg District 7 Schools spent Monday night listening to residents about a proposed \$200,000 deal with an area country club. The deal would allow the district's golf teams to play at The Country Club of Spartanburg for the next 25 years. It also includes a \$5,000 annual maintenance fee. After the deal was announced, several people voiced their concern about whether the deal is the best use of taxpayer dollars. Last week, the district announced that the deal has been put on hold because of the public's outcry and that it will not be finalized without further discussion. One of those discussions took place at Spartanburg High School on Monday night when district leaders met with dozens of residents. "Did you know when we agreed to pay \$200,000 up front that they were getting a deal for \$25 a tournament?" asked Gene Adams, who attended the meeting. "One of the reasons for doing that in some cases is to protect taxpayers from an undue expense," said Dr. Thomas White, district superintendent. At one point, White was interrupted by an outburst of laughter. White said the district will hold another meeting next Tuesday and a final meeting next Thursday to discuss the issue. Both meetings are scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. Their locations have not been determined.

February 18, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News
February 18, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Officials said two Spartanburg County District 1 schools have been closed early because of a power outage. O.P. Earle Elementary School and Landrum Middle School were dismissing students at 9:30 a.m., officials said. Officials asked parents to come pick up their children because buses will not be running. They said children who are not picked up will be kept in a safe place until they can be taken home. School was expected to resume on Thursday.

February 24, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 25, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Several parents in Anderson County are upset after a school board there voted to close Pelzer Elementary this summer. School trustees for Anderson County District 1 voted unanimously to close the historic school during their meeting on Tuesday night. Board members said state budget cuts forced them to make cuts throughout the district. They said closing Pelzer Elementary School will save the district more than \$730,000. "The state (has) already cut us to \$3 million," said board member Fred Alexander. "We think they're going to cut us another million. It's not a matter of choice. It's a matter of trying to stay alive." Many parents who were in attendance at Tuesday night's meeting stormed out after the vote, shouting at trustees that they had made the wrong decision. Some even left in tears. "My daughter, when she first started there, had a severe speech impediment," said Lavette Rucker, a parent at the meeting. "She could not say her own name. But with the nurturing and care that she received there, along with speech therapy, within a month's time she could pronounce her name." The board plans to close the school, which was established in 1885, in August.

March 4, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 5, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News Description: The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control said it is investigating a possible case of meningitis in Spartanburg County. Spartanburg County District Four Superintendent Dr. Rallie Liston said a fourth-grader at Woodruff Elementary died on Wednesday. Liston said there has not been confirmation that the child's death was caused by meningitis. Liston said there is no safety issue at Woodruff Elementary School. Liston said the classroom, bus and any other areas of the school the child may have come into contact with have been sterilized. DHEC spokesman Adam Myrick said the department is in the early stages of an investigation. He said there is no need for the general public to panic. The following is the text of the letter that was sent out by the Department of Health and Environmental Control. This letter was sent to FOX Carolina News from Spartanburg County School District Four: March 5, 2009: Dear Parent/Caregiver: SC DHEC Region 2 has received a report that a child who attends Woodruff Elementary is suspected of having a probable case of meningococcal disease, an infection which is due to bacteria called Neisseria meningitidis. The Neisseria meningitidis is spread from person to person by direct contact with the respiratory droplets or oral secretions of an infected person. We do not believe your child is at increased risk of disease. People with casual contact to an infected person, such as classmates and co-workers, are at no more risk than the general population in the same age group. The Health Department follows the advice of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the US Public Health Service, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in planning for the prevention of cases. Preventive medication is not recommended for the entire school or even the student's classmates. At any one time in a community (school, town, state), many people carry the meningococcus in their nose and throat but do not become sick. Spreading of the meningococcal bacteria usually occurs from those who carry the bacteria but are not sick. Although carriers are common, fortunately meningococcal disease is rare. Symptoms of meningococcal disease may include the sudden onset of high fever, chills, headache, altered mental status, occasionally a rash, nausea, vomiting, and a very ill appearance. If your child has any of these symptoms they should be seen by their doctor. If you have questions, you may contact your child's health care provider or Millie Wyse at the Spartanburg County Health Department at 596-2227 Ext 210.

March 11, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 11, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: A science teacher at a South Carolina high school has resigned about two weeks after he was placed on leave for shooting a foam dart at a student. The Beaufort Gazette reported that 29-year-old Jeffrey Baker resigned from Battery Creek High School on Friday. Beaufort County School District human resources officer Jacqueline Rosswurm said Baker did not give a specific reason. A sheriff's office report stated that on Feb. 23, Baker fired a foam dart at a 14-year-old girl in a "joking manner" because she was talking too loudly. The report states the dart hit the girl's left shoulder, and she then slapped Baker with the back of her hand. School district officials would not say if the girl was disciplined.

March 13, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 13, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Spartanburg County District Seven Schools received a \$100,000 grant from AT&T on Friday. The grant supports the "Cool Technology Initiative," which uses alternative teaching methods to help <u>students</u> develop academically and socially. The Viking Academy, which helped the district snag the grant, provides supportive and teaching services to at-risk students at Spartanburg High School. The academy focuses on a smaller classroom that is tailored to each <u>student's</u> unique needs. "The grant will directly impact the lives of students at Spartanburg High School by improving the graduation rate," said Superintendent Thomas White. School leaders said the academy typically sees a graduation rate of 80 percent or higher.

March 13, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 13, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Police and sheriff's deputies said they received hundreds of phone calls from concerned parents about a threat of a shooting at Union County High School on Friday. Investigators with both the Union Public Safety Department and the Union County Sheriff's Office said the threat stems from a rumor that was being spread by students via text messaging. Officials said that extra officers are at the school on Friday as a precaution. Several parents lined up at the school on Friday morning to take their children home. Some were forced to wait more than an hour to pick up their children. Investigators said they do not believe there was any credibility to the rumor.

March 16, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 16, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: South Carolina's education and health agencies are honoring school nurses in Lexington and Greenville. Jessica Porter, a registered nurse at Oak Grove Elementary, was named Monday as school nurse of the year. Jackie Dickert, a school nurse at Greenville Middle Academy, has been named the school health licensed practical nurse of the year. State officials said Porter has helped teach healthy habits through events such as "walk to school day" and "turn off the TV" campaigns. Officials

said her ability to speak fluent Spanish allows her to help Hispanic families get involved in their children's education. Officials said Dickert is also the girls' soccer coach. Her work has helped students get dental care and set up flu vaccine clinics for staff.

March 16, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 16, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Greenville County students will spend a couple of days making up for time lost during the snowstorm earlier this month. Greenville County Schools said students will use Monday, Mar. 23, and Monday, April 13, to make up for the two days on March 2 and 3. School officials said three make-up days are scheduled in the school year, which is required by law. They said the third make-up day, if it is needed, will be Friday, June 5.

March 16, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 16, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: The Clemson Tigers moved on to the NCAA tournament, while the University of South Carolina Gamecocks move to the NIT tournament. Clemson is in the NCAA tournament for the second straight year, and the seventh-seeded Tigers will take on Michigan in the opening round. The Tigers (23-8) will play Thursday in Kansas City, Mo. In early February, Clemson had only lost two games and beat Duke 74-47. But the Tigers lost six of their last 10, including an 86-81 defeat in the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament to last-place Georgia Tech. Clemson has had several meetings and energetic practices since returning to campus Friday. Coach Oliver Purnell said the emphasis has been on improving the Tigers' defense. Clemson's first tournament game will be Thursday at 7:10 p.m. Despite a 20-win season and a Southeastern Conference division title, South Carolina missed out on its first NCAA tournament bid in five years. However, after watching the tournament selections, first-year coach Darrin Horn was not sure anything his team did the past 10 days would have mattered to their chances. Horn said when Tennessee, SEC East co-champion with the Gamecocks, is seeded ninth and SEC tournament winner Mississippi State is seeded 13th, his club probably did not have the resume the NCAA committee was looking for. Still, Horn told his players they had a stellar season and to prepare for more games ahead. One of those games will be in the National Invitation Tournament in New York. The Gamecocks take on Davidson at 7 p.m. Thursday.

March 18, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 18, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: A South Carolina budget oversight panel is meeting to talk about cutting \$87 million from the state spending plan, and public schools would lose \$37 million. The Budget and Control Board meets Wednesday to discuss a 1.7 percent across-the-board state budget cut. The five-member board can only make across-the-board cuts to keep the state from running a deficit and could raise or lower the amount trimmed to keep the state's budget balanced. Since the current budget took effect in July, \$1 billion has been carved from state spending. The cuts have taken a toll on health care and education programs and most agencies have lost a fifth or more of their state budgets.

March 25, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 25, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: A shooting near a Greenville school prompted a lockdown on Tuesday morning. The shooting happened at a home on Vardy Street about 9:30 a.m. Police said that two people were shot at a home on Vardy Street. They said one of the victims was seriously hurt. Their names were not released. Vardy Street from Green Avenue to Anderson Street was closed during the investigation, police said. Oby Lyles, a representative with Greenville County Schools, said that Greenville High School was locked down as a precaution after police notified staff about the nearby shooting. The school was released from lockdown status just before 11 a.m. Police said the gunman drove away after the shooting, but no description was immediately available. Stay with FOX Carolina and foxcarolina.com for the latest on this developing story.

Attachments

Environment

PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED FIRST QUARTER 2009

Problem/Need: **ENVIRONMENT**

<u>DATE</u> <u>TIME</u> <u>PROGRAM</u>

January 7, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News January 7, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Heavy winds caused trees and power lines to come crashing down throughout the Upstate. As of 9 p.m. Wednesday, about 50,000 people were without power. In Spartanburg, people faced several close calls. Two men were driving home when a huge tree limb hit their car. They weren't hurt, but the car had some major damage. Also in Spartanburg, a tree in a front yard crashed down on homes. Had the wind blown any other way, the tree could have hit a home. But it didn't hit anything except for some power lines. It was homeowner George Pappas' tree. "I was worried -- that it didn't hit anyone's house, that was my main concern," he said. "Very scary, it could've very easily went that way. I think we're lucky." Three Spartanburg city workers were trapped because of some downed power lines. They were finishing up cleaning up some debris when a wind gust snapped a power line. That power line then wrapped itself around their truck. Firefighters and Duke Power workers freed the men. Firefighters said that if the men had jumped out, they could've been electrocuted. It took about an hour and a half to free the men. Michael Jones, one of the workers who was trapped, said, "Anything like this is possible, with the gust of wind anything is possible."

January 8, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News January 8, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Most residents of the western North Carolina mountains woke up to snow on Thursday morning. National Weather Service issued a winter storm warning for Graham, Macon, Swain Jackson, Haywood, Yancey and Mitchell counties until 7 p.m. A winter weather advisory was issued for Buncombe and Transylvania counties until 7 p.m., as well. Forecasters said locations in the warning area could see up to 4 inches of snow by Thursday night with the highest elevations receiving the highest amounts. They said locations in the advisory area could see between 1 and 3 inches. FOX Carolina News reporter Candace Hutchins said roads near Mars Hill were becoming wet as the snow began falling on Thursday morning. She said the snow was accumulating quickly on the grassy and elevated surfaces. Several districts either delayed or closed schools on Thursday. The weather service said motorists should be prepared for slippery roads and limited visibilities if driving through the area.

January 12, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News January 12, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Water levels at Hartwell Lake are up 6 feet from a December low thanks to recent rains, according to the Army Corps of Engineers. Lake levels hit a record low on Dec. 6. Nearly 24 boat ramps that have been closed because of the low water levels have been reopened after the heavy rains in early January. Engineers are deciding whether they will begin releasing water from the lake again within the next week. Engineers have said although rains have pushed water levels up, they expect the lake to still be 15 feet below full by March.

January 13, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News January 13, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Officials with nine water districts in Anderson County said Tuesday that mandatory water restrictions put in place two months ago have been lifted. In November, all nine districts prohibited non-essential water use, such as washing cars and water lawns. This was in response to a drought that hit Hartwell Lake, a main source of water for the county, very hard. The lake was reported down as much as 21 feet below full in December. In recent weeks, the Army Corps of Engineers said the lake was up as much as 6 feet thanks to recent rains. In a statement released on Tuesday the districts of Big Cree, Broadway, Hammond, Highway 88, Homeland Park, Sandy Springs, Starr-Iva, West Anderson and Williamston lifted that restriction. All nine districts thanked their customers for cutting back while the water table was extremely low. They said with the public's

cooperation saved millions of gallons of water during extreme drought restrictions. With the restrictions being lifted, officials with the districts still urge water conservation as the Upstate is still in a drought.

January 14, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News January 14, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Meteorologists said the western Carolinas could see some of the coldest air they've seen since January 2005 in the next few days. More than a dozen schools and colleges have changed their schedules on Wednesday after a few inches of snow fell in parts of the western North Carolina mountains. The Asheville-Citizen Times reported that the North Carolina Highway Patrol has received reports of black ice on some roads, but no major traffic problems as a result. FOX Carolina meteorologist Andy Wood, who was in downtown Asheville on Wednesday morning, said the area only received a dusting of snow but a lot of the roads were very slick. Temperatures in western North Carolina were in the teens on Wednesday morning and highs were expected to climb into the lower 40s. Highs by Thursday and Friday were forecasted to be in the upper 20s and lower 30s. Lows on those nights were forecasted to plunge into the lower teens. No snow fell in the Upstate of South Carolina but temperatures were quite low on Wednesday morning. Temperatures in Greenville on Wednesday morning were in the middle 20s and highs were forecasted to climb into the middle 40s. Highs later in the week will struggle to out of the 30s, forecasters said, with lows expected to drop into the teens. FOX Carolina chief meteorologist Kendra Kent said if the forecast holds, Friday's temperatures could make it the coldest day in Greenville since Jan. 23, 2005.

January 14, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News January 14, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Forecasters said the Carolinas are in for some of the coldest air of the winter season beginning Thursday night. FOX Carolina meteorologist Melissa Jones said temperatures in the Upstate of South Carolina were expected to drop to around 15 degrees by early Friday morning. She said Friday high temperatures will struggle to get above freezing. Jones said even lower temperatures are expected to hit early Saturday morning, with lows in Greenville expected to drop to 12 degrees. The National Weather Service has issued a wind chill advisory for all of the mountains from 6 p.m. Thursday until noon Friday. Forecasters said wind chills, or how the temperature feels to your skin, will be between -5 and -15 degrees. Jones said actual temperatures will drop to around 10 degrees on Friday morning. She said high temperatures in Asheville will only get to 24 degrees on Friday afternoon. Lows on Saturday morning will be in the single digits, she said. Hospital officials urge residents to take the cold weather seriously. "It can be potentially very dangerous," said Jennifer Turner, a registered nurse at Greenville Memorial Hospital. "Anyone with chronic diabetes, people who are very thing, dehydrated and malnourished are extremely susceptible." Turner said people should limit the amount of skin that is exposed to the cold air.

January 19, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News January 19, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Forecasters said Monday that a winter storm could bring as much as 5 inches of snow to parts of the western Carolinas by Tuesday night. The National Weather Service has issued a winter storm warning for Graham, Swain, Macon, Jackson, Haywood, Buncombe, Madison, Yancey and Mitchell counties in North Carolina and Union County in South Carolina. The warning is in effect until noon Tuesday. The weather service also issued a winter weather advisory for Transylvania and Henderson counties in North Carolina and Greenville, Laurens, Spartanburg, Cherokee, Greenwood, Pickens and Oconee counties in South Carolina. The watch is in effect until noon Tuesday. FOX Carolina chief meteorologist Kendra Kent said the mountains of North Carolina should receive between 3 and 5 inches of snow by Tuesday evening. She said portions of the upstate mainly along and east of Interstate 26 could see up to 3 inches of snow. Areas of South Carolina and Georgia west of Interstate 26 could see between a 1 and 2 inches of snowfall. Kent stressed that this forecast can quickly change and residents should stay tuned to FOX Carolina for the latest weather updates. Bob Mihalic, spokesmen for Greenville County, said a skeleton crew was called in to prepare equipment for the snow. He said about 75 crews will be deployed to keep the roads clear beginning at midnight Tuesday.

January 29, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News January 29, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News Description: A small earthquake struck an area near the South Carolina coast, little more than a month after a slightly stronger quake. There were no reports of injuries or damages. The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake was reported about four miles southwest of North Charleston shortly after 4 p.m. Thursday. The preliminary readings indicate it was a 2.5-magnitude quake. A 3.6-magnitude quake hit the same area Dec. 16. The director of the South Carolina Earthquake Education and Preparedness program at the College of Charleston said there is no cause for alarm. Erin Beutel said officials will watch for a pattern that could indicate a major quake is possible. On Sept. 1, 1886, a magnitude-7.3 earthquake, the strongest in South Carolina's history, killed more than 100 people and injured some 500 in the same area as Thursday's quake.

February 3, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 3, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: A winter storm watch was issued for the mountains of western North Carolina on Monday morning as forecasters predicted up to 6 inches of snow in some locations. The watch area includes Madison, Yancey, Mitchell, Swain, Haywood, Buncombe, Graham and northern Jackson counties, and the mountains of McDowell County. The National Weather Service said the watch was in effect from Tuesday afternoon through Wednesday afternoon. Forecasters said snow showers will increase in coverage across the mountains on Tuesday afternoon, especially along the Tennessee border. They said the snow will taper off to flurries by Wednesday evening. Meteorologists said 4-6 inches of snow is possible in the watch area, with higher amounts possible in elevations above 4,000 feet. In addition to the snowfall, meteorologists said wind chill values will fall to -15 degrees on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning. Forecasters urged residents in the area to monitor the forecast for the latest developments.

February 11, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 11, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Strong storms that moved through the Upstate on Wednesday night caused some damage to buildings and knocked down trees. Spartanburg County emergency officials said winds as strong as 60 mph ripped off the roof of a car wash near the intersection of Highway 9 and Paris Bridge Road. Officials said the wind was able to get under the roof and lift it off the structure. It landed on top of some vacuum cleaners, keeping it off some nearby power lines. A tree nearly fell on a house on Hayne Street. The wind pushed the tree into two fences, crushing them, and landed just feet away from a woman's house. Reports of felled trees and power lines have also been received, officials said. They said some reports of exploding transformers were received. Strong winds also tore through a greenhouse on 13th Street in Gaffney, scattering debris and plants throughout the area. Officials said anyone who comes across a downed power line should call their power company or 911 immediately, and stay as far away from it as possible. As of 9 a.m., Duke Power reported about 200 Upstate customers were without power.

February 22, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 23, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: The South Carolina Forestry Commission battled a forest fire that swelled to more than 150 acres on Monday in Jones Gap State Park. Scott Hawkins with the forestry commission said the fire has burned about 150 acres, but a controlled burn used to help contain the blaze has brought the total coverage to 250 acres. The commission is being assisted by the Greenville Strike Team, Hawkins said, which is made up of firefighters who are specially trained to battle forest fires in rough terrain. Hawkins said the rough terrain and high winds are making it hard to get a handle on the fire and extremely dangerous for fire crews. Hawkins said no structures are in danger; however, crews had to protect the Pretty Place Chapel at Camp Greenville in case the fire came near it on Sunday. The park was evacuated on Sunday, Hawkins said. Commission officials believe the fire started sometime overnight Saturday or early Sunday morning, Hawkins said. He said an improperly extinguished campfire may be to blame for the blaze. Brian Scoles with the American Red Cross in Greenville said five volunteers are at the scene to provide relief to the firefighters.

March 2, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 2, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: After bringing March snow to unlikely places such as Alabama this weekend, a massive winter storm moved northeast Monday, blanketing states from North Carolina to New England. Motorists dealt with treacherous

conditions during morning rush hour. Snow, sleet, freezing rain and gusting winds contributed to at least four deaths on roads in Massachusetts. Rhode Island and New York, Among them were a pregnant woman and a 65year-old driver who were killed when their car slammed into a snow plow in a Boston neighborhood Sunday, WCVB-TV in Boston reported. Schools from North Carolina to New England canceled classes, including public schools in Philadelphia, New York City and Boston. Boston Mayor Tom Menino declared a snow emergency and enacted parking bans around the city. "We're asking people to take public transportation if you must come into the city of Boston today, and it's slow-going out there," Menino said. The storm also shut down air travel. Hundreds of flights were canceled at the three major New York area airports and Boston's Logan International Airport. Winter storm warnings were posted from North Carolina to New Hampshire. One forecaster called it "a classic nor'easter." Philadelphia and New York could get up to a foot of snow. Forecasters said as much as 15 inches could fall on parts of New England. With places as far south as South Carolina reporting 8 inches of snow on the ground by daybreak Monday, forecasters warned that the snow may stop for a few hours, but is likely to start up again. States already strapped for cash were expected to spend millions of dollars salting and plowing roads. Menino said there were 600 pieces of snow removal equipment working to clear Boston's streets, and he estimated that the storm would cost the city about \$1 million. Farther south, more than 300,000 electric customers in Virginia and the Carolinas lost power. Earlier, the late-season storm dumped moderate to heavy snowfall in Mississippi, Tennessee and Alabama. The largest snowfall total was in Saluda, N.C., in Polk County, where there was 12.3 inches of snow as of 9:30 p.m. Sunday. On the warm side of the system, scattered rain showers and thunderstorms hit Florida. eastern Georgia, and the Carolinas. Columbia, S.C., got nearly 2 inches of rain.

March 5, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 5, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Meteorologists said that although recent rain and snow helped ease the Upstate's drought, more precipitation is still needed to end it. The National Weather Service said rainfall amounts at Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport are just more than a foot below average. FOX Carolina chief meteorologist Kendra Kent said that the Upstate has decreased the drought by about 4 inches over the last week. "We got about 2 to 3 inches of rain this last round and as the snow melts, that pushes some moisture into the ground," Kent said. With all the precipitation the Upstate has seen in the past week, the area is still listed in the extreme drought category, which is the second-worst level of drought on the U.S. Drought Monitor. People who live near Hartwell Lake said they will be happy to see the water levels rise. "All of the people that would be out on their boats aren't here," said Daniel Bushey. "So business has definitely died down." Kent said that March is typically a very wet month for the area. "The kind of rain we had was the best kind," Kent said. "It came down steady and we need a few events like this, spread out over several weeks, and I think that would do the trick." More rain was forecast for Wednesday of next week.

March 20, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 20, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: The National Weather Service said that spring will arrive in the Upstate with some patchy frost on Saturday morning. The vernal equinox, more commonly known as the start of spring, officially arrived in Greenville at 7:44 a.m. That was when the sun passed directly over the Earth's equator as the planet's orbit begins to tilt the Northern Hemisphere toward the sun. Equinox, translated literally, means "equal night." That is because the length of daylight and nighttime are equal. Although winter may be officially over, forecasters said some parts of the Upstate will need to protect sensitive vegetation from frost on Saturday morning. The weather service issued a frost advisory from midnight to 9 a.m. Saturday for southern Pickens, southern Greenville, Spartanburg, Cherokee, Union, Laurens, Greenwood, Abbeville and Anderson counties in South Carolina; and for eastern Polk and eastern Rutherford counties in North Carolina. Forecasters said temperatures on Saturday morning will fall into the middle 30s across much of the area. They said that the low temperatures and light winds will allow areas of patchy frost to develop. Plant experts said the best way to protect any plants that may be outside from frost is to cover them up.

March 20, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 20, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News Description: There is a new overlook at Jumping-Off Rock in South Carolina's Jocassee Gorges and there is something new to see as well -- the second pair of peregrine falcons known to be nesting in the state. The state Department of Natural Resources said that about 2 acres of trees were felled to provide the new view of the falcon nesting site and other vistas at the Pickens County gorges. And it's safer than the old overlook which had a sharp drop off and has been closed. The department said the entire length of Horsepasture Road through the gorges will be open during the spring season starting Friday and continuing through mid-May. Last year, a 5-mile section was closed to protect the peregrines during the first year they nested there.

Attachments

Government

PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM OR NEED FIRST QUARTER 2009

Problem/Need: **GOVERNMENT**

<u>DATE</u> <u>TIME</u> <u>PROGRAM</u>

Sundays 10:00 am FOX NEWS SUNDAY

DESCRIPTION:

Fox News Sunday is a national weekly program with current events and political issues. (60:00)

January 12, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News January 12, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Officials from the Nuclear Regulatory Agency and Duke Energy Corp. will meet this month to discuss a brief power loss at Oconee Nuclear Station during a maintenance procedure in April. Duke spokeswoman Sandra Magee told The Greenville News for a story Saturday that the 1.8-second loss of power occurred while the reactor was shut down for refueling. Magee said there was never any danger as a maintenance team changed a circuit board on a voltage regulator. Nuclear Regulatory Agency spokesman Roger Hannah told the newspaper that while the incident itself had little safety significance there was concern that the crew failed to follow proper procedure. Regulators and officials of the Charlotte, N.C.-based company will meet Jan. 22 in Atlanta.

January 15, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News January 15, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Gov. Mark Sanford said South Carolina lawmakers must use the economic challenges facing the state to cap spending, cut taxes and increase the choices parents have in deciding where to send children to school. Many of the plans the governor presented in his annual State of the State address Wednesday night were familiar. Sanford said the recession battering the nation and the state offer lawmakers an opportunity to adhere to proposals for which he has long fought. Sanford said he wants cigarette taxes to go up by 30 cents and would also increase fees for out-of-state garbage dumpers as a way to pay for a new, optional flat income tax. Sanford said he would also get rid of business incentives for specific companies to phase out taxes for all corporations.

January 26, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News January 26, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

DESCRIPTION: President Barack Obama said Monday that the nation can't afford "distractions" or "delays" when it comes to the economic stimulus plan working its way through Congress. Obama pointed to job cuts taking place at companies including Microsoft, Intel, United Airlines and Home Depot, and he said it means more working men and women "whose families have been disrupted and whose dreams have been put on hold." Obama told reporters Monday that the government owes it to "every American" to act with a "sense of urgency" and "common purpose." Obama said these "extraordinary times" call for "swift and extraordinary action." Senate committees were scheduled to take up the massive economic stimulus package Tuesday, and the full House is expected to vote on its version of the \$825 billion plan Wednesday. Republicans want the recovery package tilted more toward tax cuts and are questioning whether government spending programs will revive the economy in the short term. "We can't borrow and spend our way back to prosperity," House Republican leader John Boehner declared. The administration's goal is to infuse money directly into the economy in hopes of bringing the nation out of recession, while creating 3 million to 4 million jobs. But it's not promising a quick fix, cautioning that the recovery could be long and painful. "We're off and running, but it's going to get worse before it gets better," said Vice President Joe Biden. Meanwhile, the Senate was poised to confirm Timothy Geithner as treasury secretary Monday despite his tax questions. Some Republicans said his confirmation will create an unusual situation: A Cabinet member heading the agency that oversees the IRS who had to cut a check to pay back taxes and penalties. Geithner failed to pay \$34,000 in back taxes earlier in the decade but now has paid it all. Supporters said Geithner's reputation as a financial whiz make him the perfect person to lead the country out of the economic hole it's in. They cited his vast financial experience as head of the New York Fed and work at the Treasury Department under three presidents. State Power Over Emissions Standards? Also Monday, Obama, pushing stronger curbs on greenhouse gases, said he wants to make it easier for states such as California to adopt tougher fuel-efficiency rules than the federal standard. "America will not be held hostage to dwindling resources," he told reporters. He said the government must work with the states -- not against them -- on tougher fuel standards for cars and trucks. He said California and several other states have tried to come up

with tougher emission standards but that "Washington stood in their way." Obama said Monday that he now wants the Environmental Protection Agency to take a second look at decisions denying permission for states to have the higher standards.

January 27, 200910:00pmThe Ten O'clock NewsJanuary 27, 20095:00a-9:00amThe Morning News

DESCRIPTION: U.S. Rep. Bob Inglis already has a challenger less than a month after his latest term began. Spartanburg resident Christina Jeffrey told the Herald-Journal of Spartanburg she hopes her early announcement will reduce the number of opponents she might have and give her more time to introduce herself to voters. Jeffrey plans to run in the Republican primary against Inglis in 2010. Inglis represents the 4th District, which is made up mostly of Greenville and Spartanburg counties. Inglis was sworn in to serve his sixth term earlier this month. He served in the U.S. House from 1993-1999, but gave up his seat because of a term-limit pledge. He was re-elected in 2004 and has served since.

January 29, 200910:00pmThe Ten O'clock NewsJanuary 29, 20095:00a-9:00amThe Morning News

DESCRIPTION: The South Carolina Senate has decided to meet only one day next week to save taxpayer money. Senators will be in regular session Tuesday, but only subcommittees will meet Wednesday. Senate President Pro Tem Glenn McConnell said that includes fewer than half of the 46 senators. None will meet Thursday. The move will save taxpayers thousands of dollars in fuel reimbursements and meal and hotel allowances. Like other agencies, the legislative budgets have taken cuts. House members will meet in regular session next week. Last week, both chambers were out and saved taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars. The House and Senate also plan to take furloughs around Easter. Leaders hope to end the legislative session two weeks early in mid-May.

February 9, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 9, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

DESCRIPTION: Speaking to a receptive crowd in Elkhart, Ind., where the rate of unemployment has soared to over 15 percent of the workforce, Obama said the nation is facing "an economic crisis as deep and as dire as any since the Great Depression." The visit is part of Obama's campaign-style blitz to garner support for his economic stimulus plan. In northern Indiana, the towns of Elkhart county make up the heart of the nation's RV industry. But hundreds of workers have lost their jobs in recent months, with Keystone RV in Goshen telling 350 workers just a week ago that they would be laid off in April. In Middlebury, 250 workers at Jayco will be out of a job in two weeks. As of December, the county's unemployment rate stood at 15.3 percent, but County Commissioner Mike Yoder estimated that the recent job cuts have likely pushed it closer to 20 percent. Commissioner Terry Rodino said the county has seen some diversification in its employment base over the years, but not enough to offset the RV industry's slide. Along with his visit to Elkhart, Obama planned to take reporters' questions in his first White House news conference Monday night. On Tuesday, he will be in Fort Myers, Fla., an area hit hard by foreclosures. Obama is aiming to boost a Senate compromise on the economic stimulus plan reached late Friday. It is poised to move forward in the Senate on Monday. The \$827 billion package seems assured to clear a key procedural hurdle, but not by much. Just three Republicans are expected to join Democrats in supporting the package, barely giving it the 60 votes needed. Most Republicans will vote no, unhappy not only at the pricetag, but also that they weren't more involved in putting the package together. Final Senate approval will set the stage for what could be tough negotiations to iron out differences with the House over tax cuts and spending. The package is expected to pass in the Senate on Tuesday. Republicans took to the Sunday news talk shows to deride the stimulus package as a disaster waiting to happen. "Everybody on the street in America understands that," said Sen. Richard Shelby, the ranking Republican on the Senate Banking Committee, told CNN. "This is not the right road to go. We'll pay dearly." But Lawrence Summers, the head of the administration's National Economic Council, told ABC News that Republicans have lost all credibility when it comes to talking about how to help the economy. "Those who presided over the last eight years -- the eight years that brought us to the point where we inherit trillions of dollars of deficit, an economy that's collapsing more rapidly than at any time in the last 50 years -- don't seem to me in a strong position to lecture about the lessons of history," Summers said on ABC's "This Week." Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine is among the few in her party who support the bill. She told NBC's "Today" show that it's not a perfect bill, but she argued that it is "a good bill" that's needed. "Doing nothing is not an option," Obama said on Monday in Elkhart. "We've had a good debate. Now it's time to act." "You know, look, it's not perfect," the president conceded. "But it is the right size, it is the right scope. Broadly speaking, it has the right priorities to create jobs that will jump-start our economy and transform the economy for the 21st century.

February 9, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 9, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

DESCRIPTION: State troopers are stepping up enforcement of speed limits on interstate and major four-lane highways across North Carolina for the next two weeks. The Highway Patrol said Monday the effort dubbed "Operation Slowdown" was aimed at encouraging motorists to drive the speed limits and help to reduce highway fatalities. Reuben Young is secretary of the North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety and said speed was the leading cause of 359 traffic deaths in the past four years. Officials also said speed was the cause of more than 14,000 injuries suffered in more than 50,000 collisions. The enforcement runs through Feb. 22. Troopers said speeders can be reported to the Highway Patrol by dialing *HP on cellular phones

February 10, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 10, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

DESCRIPTION: Obese public employees would have to pay an extra \$25 monthly for their state health insurance under a bill up for debate in South Carolina. The measure sponsored by GOP Sen. Greg Ryberg of Aiken is on the agenda Tuesday in a Senate subcommittee. It would tie the surcharge to employees' body-mass index, a weight and height measurement. The proposal follows a vote last August to increase health insurance premiums of public workers who smoke. The smoking surcharge is set to take effect Jan. 1, 2010. It was approved by a five-member board that oversees the state budget. Smokers called it an unfair increase, since smoking is not the only bad habit that increases health care costs. South Carolina has among the nation's highest rates of obesity and diabetes

February 12, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 12, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

DESCRIPTION: South Carolina legislators have overwhelmingly approved a bill aimed at preventing residents from being trapped in a cycle of debt through payday lending. The House voted for the measure by a 93-16 margin on Wednesday. It requires another, largely perfunctory vote before heading to the Senate. The proposal prevents consumers from taking out more than one \$600 loan at a time. It requires the industry to check a database before making loans. Lenders can charge \$15 for every \$100 borrowed for the loans, which must be repaid in two weeks. The bill would allow consumers to go into an extended payment plan if they cannot meet the deadline. Critics said borrowers should have to wait at least a week before taking out a second loan.

March 10, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 10, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

DESCRIPTION: Gov. Mark Sanford said Wednesday that spending federal stimulus money does not make sense when South Carolina has a large debt to pay off. Sanford made the announcement during a news conference at Wilson's Equipment Company on Asheville Highway. The Republican governor said he will send a letter to President Barack Obama on Wednesday asking for a waiver to use the controllable 25 percent of the stimulus money to pay off part the state's \$8.1 billion general debt. He said the remaining 75 percent of the stimulus package is out of his control. "(It) doesn't make sense to spend money you don't have," Sanford said. Sanford used several charts and graphs to show that spending the money on programs in the state would push the state \$1.2 billion deeper into the red over the next two years. "You can only squeeze so much blood from a turnip," Sanford said. Sanford said a majority of the state's general debt is made up of retirement and healthcare costs. Sanford said on Tuesday that he plans to use a portion of the stimulus money to increase unemployment benefits payments by \$25 a week. The governor said that his plans are all dependent on the approval of his waiver and state lawmakers, who, according to provisions in the stimulus package, have the right to override Sanford's decisions for the money. Sanford also sent a letter to lawmakers on Tuesday explaining his plans for using the stimulus money. Sanford planned to make similar announcements at his office in Columbia and in North Charleston on Wednesday afternoon.

 March 12, 2009
 10:00pm
 The Ten O'clock News

 March 12, 2009
 5:00a-9:00am
 The Morning News

DESCRIPTION: Legislation to greatly restrict the payday lending industry in South Carolina is advancing. A Senate subcommittee on Thursday approved a bill that requires a seven-day cooling off period between taking out the loans. It also restricts the loans to a maximum of \$600 or 25 percent of a borrower's income. Advance America Cash Centers Inc. spokesman Jamie Fulmer calls the limits in the legislation arbitrary. Fulmer said the bill now heading to the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee will put payday lenders like the Spartanburg company out of business. Payday lenders no longer operate

in neighboring Georgia and North Carolina because of those states' laws. Last year, the Senate came within three votes of passing a bill banning payday loans.

March 16, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 16, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

DESCRIPTION: South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford is calling on President Barack Obama to get the Democratic National Committee to pull an ad criticizing Sanford's opposition to federal stimulus money. "Over the past year, candidate Obama promised a break from 'politics as usual' – something that I joined with millions of American in indeed hoping for," Sanford said in his statement. The DNC began airing an ad Monday that says Sanford is playing politics with \$700 million in stimulus cash instead of looking out for health care, jobs and schools. Sanford last week asked Obama to use that cash to pay down state debt and otherwise would refuse it. On Monday, the Obama administration rejected Sanford's request. White House Budget Director Peter Orszag said in a letter to the Republican on Monday that the federal stimulus law does not allow Obama to make an exception for that cash. Demint Calls Sanford Hero For Stimulus Stance: South Carolina Republican Sen. Jim Demint called Sanford a "true American hero" for his stance on the federal stimulus package. During an interview with FOX Carolina on Sunday, Demint said Sanford is trying to get the American people to look farther down the road. "(Sanford is) recognizing that if we take all this money and grow government programs, we're not going to be able to sustain those programs long term," Demint said. "He wants to make sure we're smart about what we're doing, and I really appreciate him doing that." Demint said that he expects Sanford will accept the money for roads and bridges.

March 17, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 17, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

DESCRIPTION: Rebuffed once, South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford is making a second bid to use \$700 million in federal stimulus cash for debt payments -- but this time for school construction. The request by the governor to the White House on Tuesday comes a day after the Obama administration told Sanford the cash is intended to spare jobs and educate children. The administration denied permission to use the money to pay down other state obligations. Sanford's new request seeks approval to use federal cash to repay \$577 million in school bonds. He said the cash would free up millions in debt payments. The rest would be used to repay other debt. Sanford's letter reiterates criticism of Democrats for airing ads in South Carolina slamming the governor for his stimulus plans.

March 18, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 18, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

DESCRIPTION: A government report released Wednesday by South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham suggests the state's Legislature may not be able to override Gov. Mark Sanford if he rejects stimulus dollars for education. Sanford has asked the White House for permission to use \$700 million on state debt but that request has been denied. State lawmakers have voted to use the money if the Republican governor rejects it, believing they are authorized by a provision in the legislation inserted by South Carolina Rep. James Clyburn. In the report, Graham, a Republican, said the Clyburn provision could violate the 10th Amendment, which gives state governments powers that are not spelled out in the Constitution. A day earlier, South Carolina's school chief said public schools are in jeopardy without the money.

March 18, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 18, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

DESCRIPTION: The Federal Reserve said it will start buying long-term government bonds, opening a new front in its battle to lift the country out of recession. The Fed said it will buy up to \$300 billion in long-term Treasury securities over the next six months. Doing so could help the economy because many kinds of debt -- from mortgages to corporate bonds -- are linked to Treasury rates. Fed purchases would boost Treasury prices and drive down their rates. That would ripple through and lower rates on other kinds of debt. The Fed left a key bank lending rate at a record low of between zero and 0.25 percent. The Fed also will buy more mortgage-backed securities and debt guaranteed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in a move to help that market.

 March 20, 2009
 10:00pm
 The Ten O'clock News

 March 20, 2009
 5:00a-9:00am
 The Morning News

DESCRIPTION: Nearly 80 South Carolina mayors are urging Gov. Mark Sanford to accept all the federal stimulus money slated for the state. Charleston Mayor Joe Riley said Thursday he is among 79 mayors who have signed a letter to the governor and Legislature. That's up from last Friday's tally of 52 mayors. Sanford has twice sought permission from President Obama to use \$700 million of the money to pay down state debt. The first request was refused. Sanford has control over only part of \$2.8 billion in federal stimulus money slated for the state over two years. Riley told The Post and Courier of Charleston the governor needs to "put an end to this foolishness." The letter said that local officials see the recession's affect on residents daily and know how badly the money is needed.

March 20, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 20, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

DESCRIPTION: The White House has again rejected South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford's bid to use federal stimulus cash to pay down state debt. White House Budget Director Peter Orszag sent the Republican governor a letter Friday saying the federal cash should be used on things such as education, not to pay off school construction debt. Sanford has been vocal in opposing the federal bailout. The governor had asked to use the \$700 million portion of federal stimulus cash over which he has first say to pay down school bonds and other debt. In all, the state is to get \$2.8 billion in federal help over two years. State lawmakers have said they'll use the money if Sanford does not. Orszag had already rejected a first request by Sanford to use the cash on unspecified debt.

 March 23, 2009
 10:00pm
 The Ten O'clock News

 March 23, 2009
 5:00a-9:00am
 The Morning News

DESCRIPTION: Stocks soared about 500 points on Monday as details emerged from the government's plan to help banks remove as much as \$1 trillion in bad assets from their books. The Obama administration unveiled the new formula Monday to help resolve the nation's worst banking crisis in 70 years. The administration plan, spearheaded by Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, is to buy as much as \$1 trillion in bad assets and wipe them off banks' balance sheets, allowing them to resume more normal lending. It also sets up a new government entity, the Public Investment Corp. In one example used in a fact sheet released by the White House, the purchase of a batch of bad mortgage loans would see the private investor put up 6 percent of the cost with the rest provided by the government, with the FDIC .covering 84 percent of the cost with a loan and the remaining 6 percent coming from funds from the \$700 billion bailout program. The loan crunch is depressing economic activity and making the current recession more prolonged and severe. The program envisions using the resources of the government's \$700 billion bailout fund, the Federal Reserve and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., as well as private investors. It also sets up a new government entity, the Public Investment Corp. In an opinion piece in the Wall Street Journal, Geithner said hoping that banks can shed bad assets on their own, over time, "risks prolonging the crisis." In announcing the program on Monday, Geithner pleaded for patience despite "deep anger and outrage" over executive bonus payments. Geithner's performance in President Barack Obama's Cabinet has come under heavy criticism from some in Congress, but Obama said on Monday he's standing by his secretary. Feb. Existing Home Sales Unexpectedly Rise 5.1 Percent: Sales of previously owned homes rose from January to February in an unexpected boost for the slumping housing market as buyers took advantage of deep discounts on foreclosures. The National Association of Realtors said housing resales grew 5.1 percent -- to an annual rate of 4.72 million last month. Analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters had expected sales to fall to an annual pace of 4.45 million units. The median sales price plunged 15.5 percent -- to \$165,400 from \$195,800 a year earlier, the second-lowest drop on record. Prices are down about 28 percent from their peak in July 2006.

March 24, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 24, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

DESCRIPTION: Plans to take the federal stimulus cash Gov. Mark Sanford rejected last week are up for debate, as well as whether to increase the state's tax on cigarettes. A House Ways and Means subcommittee plans Tuesday to discuss a joint resolution to spend the \$700 million Sanford rejected. Sanford twice asked the White House for approval to use that cash to pay down state debt, including outstanding borrowing for education facilities and federal loans to the state's unemployment system. The House already has included \$1 billion in federal stimulus cash in the \$6.6 billion budget it sent to the Senate two weeks ago. The Senate Finance Committee is working on the budget now. It passed a similar resolution last week and that could be debated this week on the Senate floor. Meanwhile, plans to raise the nation's lowest cigarette tax by 50 cents to support a new health insurance program for low-paid South Carolina workers appear to have broad support. A House Ways and Means subcommittee takes up the bill Tuesday and it is expected to be sent to the House for debate later this week. House Speaker Bobby Harrell of Charleston sponsored the bill and House Minority Leader Harry Ott of St. Matthews supports it. The legislation generates \$147 million, with \$139 million for a new insurance program. Under that program, workers who earn up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level would get a 75 percent credit on health insurance through the Palmetto Health Care Safety Net Program. The state support would be capped at \$3,000 a year.

March 24, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

March 24, 2009

DESCRIPTION: Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner asked Congress on Tuesday to grant his office new powers that would allow it to regulate huge companies such as American International Group. "AIG highlights broad failures of our financial system," Geithner told the House Financial Services Committee. "We must ensure that our country never faces this situation again." Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, who accompanied Geithner to the hearing, reminded the panel that the government bailed out AIG four times, spending more than \$180 billion altogether. The company, a globally interconnected colossus with 74 million customers worldwide and operations in more than 130 countries, was too big to let fail, he said. "Its failure could have resulted in a 1930s-style global financial and economic meltdown, with catastrophic implications for production, income and jobs," Bernanke told the panel. The bailout highlighted the need to safely wind down financial giants on the verge of collapse and subject them to stronger regulatory oversight. Along with the bailout money, the government needs better oversight and accountability measures, said. To that end, Geithner has asked for powers similar to those of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, which has authority to seize control of banks, take over their bad assets and sell good ones to competitors. The issue of the \$165 million in bonuses paid to AIG execs has drawn what Geithner described as "deep anger and outrage." Fifteen of AIG's top 20 bonus recipients have agreed to return their money following a firestorm of criticism and some arm-twisting. New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo said AIG employees have agreed to return about \$50 million of the \$165 million in bonuses awarded earlier this month by the troubled insurer. Bernanke said that he wanted to sue to stop AIG from paying millions in employee bonuses. Geithner and Bernanke are also expected to be asked about the new risks to taxpayers from their latest effort to save tottering banks and the U.S. economy: a plan to take over up to \$1 trillion in dodgy mortgage securities with the help of private investors. Geithner said the severe banking crisis shows the U.S. financial system failed a major test and is in need of an overhaul. Proposed regulations designed to prevent a repeat of the financial crisis will debut on Thursday, when Geithner testifies. The House has already approved a measure to hit the AIG bonuses with a 90 percent tax. The Senate is working on its own version of a punitive tax.

March 25, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 25, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

DESCRIPTION: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton heads to Mexico on Wednesday on a trip aimed at bolstering antinarcotics cooperation. The visit is being overshadowed by spiraling drug violence in Mexico and fears of greater cross-border spillover. U.S. officials said they do not want relations with Mexico to be dominated by the violence, which has spread from the border region on the Mexican side into some U.S. border states. The officials said Clinton also wants to discuss trade, climate change and the global financial crisis during her two-day trip. The Obama administration has announced it will send more money, technology and manpower to secure the United States' Southwestern frontier and help Mexican authorities in their battle against drug cartels. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano has said that officials were considering whether to deploy the National Guard to the border. Texas Gov. Rick Perry has asked that 1,000 troops be sent to bolster border security in his state. Many of the moves are a continuation of programs that The violent turf battles among Mexican drug cartels have led to a spate of kidnappings and home invasions in some U.S. cities. Mexico Captures 1 Of 24 On 'Most Wanted' List existed under the Bush administration. Meanwhile, Mexican authorities said soldiers have detained one of the nation's 24 top drug trafficking suspects included on a "most wanted" list published Monday. Army Gen. Luis Arturo Oliver said Hector Huerta Rios was detained Tuesday in a suburb of the northern industrial city of Monterrey. The capture was announced at a news conference Wednesday. The "most wanted" list was released along with offers of \$2 million rewards for information leading to the capture of each. It was not clear if a reward was paid in this case. Authorities said Huerta Rios controlled Monterrey operations of the Beltran Leyva cartel.

 March 30, 2009
 10:00pm
 The Ten O'clock News

 March 30, 2009
 5:00a-9:00am
 The Morning News

DESCRIPTION: South Carolina lawmakers plan to write two budgets this year. One spending plan includes \$700 million in federal stimulus money to be sent to the state over the next two years, while the second will follow Gov. Mark Sanford's request to not use the federal money. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Hugh Leatherman says drafting both versions will bring public awareness to what will happen if Sanford's decision holds. Sanford wants to use stimulus money to pay down debt, but the White House said the money must be used to help education and employment.

March 31, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 31, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

DESCRIPTION: Opinions on South Carolina's more than 200-year-old law banning the use of cards or dice in any game were split at a public meeting held on Monday. The meeting allowed the public to tell lawmakers what they think of the law and whether some bills to change that law should be passed. Stan McKinney said that about a year ago he and some friends were playing poker when Greenville County deputies broke it up. "They came and arrested people," McKinney said. McKinney said

he asked for a jury trial about his arrest, but the judge threw out the case. "They told me the judge said it was too trivial to even go to trial," McKinney said. On Monday night, dozens of people gathered at the Greenville County council chambers to talk about proposed changes to the state law. One of the two bills that would change the law would allow non-profit groups and organizations to host raffles to help fund community projects. The second bill would change the penalty or create exceptions for social gambling. Some at the meeting said that regardless of the wording, gambling is wrong. "Thou shalt not kill is an antiquated law," said Larry Haviland. "Thou shalt not steal is an antiquated law. They are still as valid today as when it was written." Members of the American Legion came to show their support for the bills. "Years ago, we had a car raffle going and then we had a sweepstakes," said James Holland, a member of the American Legion. He said that the organization stopped the fundraisers after they were informed that they were illegal. He said the Legion just wanted to raise money for some community projects. "The person that buys the ticket is your neighbor, your church member or the people you know who are not gamblers," Holland said. South Carolina and Utah are the only two states in the country with this kind of gambling law on the books.

March 31, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 31, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

DESCRIPTION: South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford talked about his position on accepting federal stimulus money to a group at Furman University on Monday evening. Sanford fielded questions from the public about the economy and his case for not accepting stimulus cash. Some protesters also waved posters urging Sanford to accept the money and use it for education. Sanford said his stance on the issue is firm. He said that stimulus funds should be used to pay down debt or not at all. "He hasn't submitted another proposal to address how he would deal with the redistricting in public schools and reforms that need to happen if the money were to be implemented or accepted," said Andrew Lee, a senior at Furman. "Like he said we don't even know if this is going to work or not," said Christopher Mills, another senior at Furman. "So an option like paying down debt is very attractive because it reduces the burden on our generation and at the same time makes our state better off." Sanford has submitted two requests to the federal government for a waiver to use the funds to pay off debt; both have been denied. Sanford said legislators must now decide how to spend the money, which they said they will accept even if he does not.

March 31, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 31, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

DESCRIPTION: President Barack Obama has arrived in Europe, with a hefty economic and political agenda for his first journey across the Atlantic since taking office two months ago. The first stop for the president and first lady Michelle Obama was London. Obama planned a round of meetings with leaders on Wednesday, including Queen Elizabeth II, summit host British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and the presidents of Russia and China. The world economy is in far worse shape than when the group of rich and developing countries last met in November and set lofty goals for international cooperation. Trade is deteriorating, protectionism is on the march and joblessness is rising. Street demonstrations have increased, and widespread protests are expected in London this week. The eight-day trip will cover five countries and will start with a crisis economic summit in London. At a meeting of the Group of 20 countries that first convened last fall, the president will appeal for joint action to pump up worldwide demand. Obama's popularity in Europe isn't translating into European support for the massive spending he wants. This weekend, there's a NATO summit in France and Germany, before the trip wraps up next week with stops in two other NATO countries, the Czech Republic and Turkey. The president is also expected to have talks with the leaders of India and South Korea. In addition to global finances, Obama's agenda includes the fight against terrorism in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The president is hoping NATO countries will send more troops to Afghanistan. The allies are mostly saying no to that.

Attachments

Jobs, Economy, Growth

ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED FIRST QUARTER 2009

Problem/Need: JOBS/ECONOMY/GROWTH

<u>DATE</u> <u>TIME</u> <u>PROGRAM</u>

January 9, 200910:00pmThe Ten O'clock NewsJanuary 9, 20095:00a-9:00amThe Morning News

DESCRIPTION: The hemorrhaging of American jobs accelerated at a record pace at the end of 2008, bringing the year's total job losses to 2.6 million or the highest level in more than six decades. A sobering U.S. Labor Department jobs report Friday showed the economy lost 524,000 jobs in December and 1.9 million in the year's final four months, after the credit crisis began in September. The unemployment rate rose to 7.2% last month from 6.7% in November - its highest rate since January 1993. The steep annual drop in jobs marked the highest yearly job-loss total since 1945, the year in which World War II ended. "We're seeing a complete unraveling of the labor market and are on track for getting beyond 10% unemployment," said Lawrence Mishel, president of the Economic Policy Institute. The total number of unemployed Americans rose by 632,000 to 11.1 million. November, in which 584,000 jobs were lost, and December marked the first time in the 70-year history of the report in which the economy lost more than 500,000 jobs in consecutive months. "We have a bigger economy now, but even on a proportional basis, the last months have been the worst since [1945]," said Kurt Karl, head of economic research at Swiss Re. "It's just an enormous acceleration of job losses." By comparison, the 2.6 million jobs lost in 2008 nationwide were equal to the number of jobs found in states such as Wisconsin, Missouri or Maryland. Under-employment at a record high. A growing number of workers seeking full-time jobs were able to find only part-time work. Those working part-time jobs - because they couldn't find full-time work, or their hours had been cut - jumped by 715,000 people to 8 million, the highest since such records were first kept in 1955. The so-called under-employment rate, which counts those part-time workers as well as those without jobs who have become discouraged and stopped looking for work, rose to a record 13.5% from 12.6%. Calculations for that measure began in January 1994. "The existing unemployment figures are greatly understated," said billionaire steel tycoon Wilbur Ross in a recent interview with CNNMoney.com. "They count as employed someone who used to have a high-paid manufacturing job, and now is working at a Wal-Mart or a Wendy's." In another discouraging sign, the average hourly work week fell last month to 33.3 hours - the lowest level in history - from 33.5 hours. Even with a modest 5-cent gain in the average hourly salary, the average weekly paycheck fell by \$2 to \$611.39. Job losses widespread: Job losses were spread across a wide variety of industries. Manufacturing lost 149,000 jobs, the leisure and hospitality industries cut 22,000 jobs, and the mining industry shed 1,000 positions. Even in the midst of the holiday shopping season, retailers still slashed payrolls by 66,600 workers last month. Professional and business services jobs, a category seen by some economists as a proxy for overall economic activity, dropped by 113,000. And financial services jobs fell by 14,000. Only two of ten industry categories were hiring last month. Government hiring, which has stayed relatively strong throughout the downturn, added another 7,000 jobs in December. Education and health services also grew payrolls by 45,000 employees. Construction employment shrank further by 101,000 jobs, and the rate of construction unemployment soared to 15.3% - by far the highest of any group. "Today's jobs report ... is conclusive evidence that it is time to put people back to work building America," said Terry O'Sullivan, general president of the Laborers' International Union of North America. "Now it's time for Congress to move to create jobs with the same urgency as they did on the \$700 billion Wall Street bailout." Call for stimulus: President-elect Barack Obama has begun his push for a massive stimulus plan, aimed at creating or saving 3 million jobs over the next two years. Lawmakers have called for rapid action to address the extraordinary stresses facing the labor market, including spending hundreds of billions of dollars on new infrastructure projects. "This morning, we received a stark reminder about how urgent action is needed." said Obama at a Friday press conference. "Clearly the situation is dire, it is deteriorating and demands urgent and immediate action. For the sake of our economy and our people, this is the moment to act, and act without delay. "Many economists have said job losses will continue to accelerate without government intervention."The country is losing half a million jobs in a month, and if the government doesn't act quickly, there's no reason that wouldn't intensify," said Mark Zandi, chief economist of Moody's Economy.com before a Democratic Steering and Policy Committee forum Wednesday. Infrastructure experts agree, saying unemployed construction workers are eager to get back to work."Putting money into highways won't by itself end the recession, but it will put a lot of skilled workers back on job," said Ken Simonson, chief economist for The Associated General Contractors of America. December's job losses were expected to be deep, as employers looked to slash payrolls to free up balance sheets for the new year. But large-scale cutbacks may continue throughout the first half of 2009, economists say, as the nation's economy continues on its slow path to recovery. "I think this [level of job loss] is going to continue at least through March," said Tig Gilliam, chief executive of Adecco Group North America, a unit of the world's largest employment firm. "The many clients I've spoken with are not expecting an economic bounceback soon. They're making the painful and difficult decisions to adjust their capacity for the reduced demand for their goods and services." Gilliam and Karl both expect about another 1 million jobs to be lost in January and February before the declines begin to shrink to about a 200,000 level in June. Both said stimulus will help, but they doubt infrastructure jobs will have as quick of a boost as lawmakers hope. "Infrastructure projects won't have an effect until late in the year," said Karl. "Tax cuts may have a more immediate impact, but as we saw with the last stimulus package, they may have no economic impact at all." In another sign that more losses will come soon, temporary employment, including workers employed by temp agencies, fell by another 80,600 jobs last month. Employers often cut temporary workers before they begin cutting permanent staff. The economy has lost more than 2.5 million jobs in the current recession, which began in December 2007, far surpassing the previous two recessions, and just below the 2.7 million jobs lost in the 1981-1982 recession, which had the deepest unemployment in the 70-year history of the report.

January 9, 2009 January 9, 2009 10:00pm 5:00a-9:00am The Ten O'clock News The Morning News DESCRIPTION: The government said the nation's unemployment rate bolted to 7.2 percent in December, the highest since early 1993, as employers slashed 524,000 jobs. That's up from 6.7 percent in November. The Labor Department's report underscores the terrible toll of the deepening recession and highlights the hard task President-elect Barack Obama faces in resuscitating the flat-lined economy. For all of 2008, the economy lost 2.6 million jobs. That was the most since 1945, when nearly 2.8 million jobs were lost, although the number of jobs in the U.S. has more than tripled since then. Although economists were forecasting even more payroll reductions in December -- around 550,000 -- job losses in both October and November turned out to be deeper than previously estimated. Revised figures showed that the employers slashed 584,000 positions in November and another 423,000 in October. Investors showed some relief following the government report that the economy lost fewer jobs than feared last month. Investors were upbeat that the figures were not worse. Dow Jones industrial average futures were up 34 to the 8,730 level. Futures had been down 18 ahead of the report.

Most international stock markets lost ground Friday amid more corporate gloom and worries over the jobs report. After fluctuating in the morning, Asian markets trended down later in the session as investors awaited closely watched U.S. non-farm payrolls data.

January 9, 200910:00pmThe Ten O'clock NewsJanuary 9, 20095:00a-9:00amThe Morning News

DESCRIPTION: After listening to his dire warnings, Democratic and Republican lawmakers remain skeptical of President-elect Barack Obama's plan to revitalize a weakened economy. Obama is urging Congress to "act boldly and act now," saying that if the government doesn't step in "this recession could linger for years." Leading lawmakers have set an informal goal of mid-February for enacting tax cuts and government spending that could cost as much as \$1 trillion. But they are letting the president-elect know they plan to put their own fingerprint on the economic recovery effort. Some Democrats argue the proposed tax cuts are too small to get consumers drowning in debt out shopping. Republicans are fearful of a deficit that soars beyond \$1 trillion. Congress is having enough trouble keeping track of last year's bailout. A congressional panel overseeing the Treasury Department's \$700 billion financial bailout is demanding more answers. In its first report, released Dec. 10, the panel said it asked Treasury how banks are spending taxpayer money, how the money will combat the rising tide of home foreclosures and the agency's overall strategy for the rescue. But the panel's second report said Treasury's Dec. 30 response "did not provide complete answers to several of the questions and failed to address a number of the questions at all." The new document cites an Associated Press investigation that found none of the banks have been willing to disclose what they were doing with hundreds of billions of dollars distributed through direct injections of federal money. The Congressional Oversight Panel is one of the few means of accountability provided under the bailout legislation.

January 12, 200910:00pmThe Ten O'clock NewsJanuary 12, 20095:00a-9:00amThe Morning News

DESCRIPTION: President-elect Barack Obama's top economic adviser told Congress that the need for the remaining \$350 billion of the financial bailout package is "imminent and urgent." Larry Summers wrote a letter to the bipartisan leadership of the House of Representatives and the Senate to assure lawmakers that the money will be used to help community banks, small businesses, consumers and homeowners as well as large financial institutions. The letter came as Obama asked President George W. Bush to seek the remaining money in the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) so that Obama can have the money at his disposal promptly after taking office Jan. 20. The White House said Monday that Bush has agreed to ask Congress to release the funds, which are intended to help the nation deal with its financial crisis. White House press secretary Dana Perino said the Bush White House will continue working with Obama's transition team and with Congress on how best to proceed on the release of the money. The unpopular bailout has featured unconditional infusions of money into financial institutions that have done little to account for it. Earlier Monday, Bush said at a news conference that he had told Obama that he would be willing to ask for the bailout money if Obama thought that should happen while Bush is still in office. The Bush administration and Obama have both been appealing to uneasy lawmakers for the money. Senate Banking Committee Chairman Christopher Dodd said Monday that in order to win authorization of such additional spending, the government will have to do a much better job of accounting to the taxpayers for where the money already spent has gone. He said he was encouraged by assurances he heard about help for people facing home foreclosure during a meeting with Summers. Dodd told CBS's "The Early Show" on Monday that "I feel better this morning" about prospects for approval. Dodd said earlier that more of the money will be used to help homeowners on the brink of foreclosure. He added that the incoming administration is going "to fundamentally alter" the way the program has been managed. Senate Democrats said a vote could come later this week. Though Bush will request the additional money, Obama's administration would allocate it after he is sworn into office. Obama has said that if nothing is done to lift the country out of recession, the downturn could last for years and the unemployment rate could reach double digits. He's pushing to get his stimulus package approved by Congress and points to a new analysis prepared by his economic team. It shows the plan would create or save up to 4.1 million jobs. The analysis has been posted on the Internet.

January 13, 200910:00pmThe Ten O'clock NewsJanuary 13, 20095:00a-9:00amThe Morning News

DESCRIPTION: A South Carolina company that makes drapery fabrics and window coverings said Monday it will lay off nearly two dozen employees. ADO Corp. of Spartanburg said the work force reduction comes because of the continued slump in the housing and building industry. ADO Corp. said it is laying off 23 of its 137 employees in Spartanburg. The Herald-Journal of Spartanburg reported the company was laying off one supervisor and a number of production workers. Two clerical employees were laid off last month. Human Resources director Rick Sloan said there were no plans for additional cuts.

January 13, 200910:00pmThe Ten O'clock NewsJanuary 13, 20095:00a-9:00amThe Morning News

DESCRIPTION: Honda of South Carolina has announced it will stop production during the months of March, April and May because of the country's weakening economy. The Morning News of Florence reported that Jeff Helton, Honda's assistant vice president for support services, said the company will not lay off its associates or close the Timmonsville-based plant during that time. Helton said the company has offered voluntary separation packages. He said

associates were notified in December of the company's plans to stop production in March. Associates were notified Monday morning that production also would be stopped for April and May. The company's Web site said Honda is the manufacturer of all-terrain <u>vehicles</u> and personal watercrafts.

January 13, 200910:00pmThe Ten O'clock NewsJanuary 13, 20095:00a-9:00amThe Morning News

DESCRIPTION: The Treasury Department said the federal government already has run up a record deficit of \$485.2 billion in just the first three months of the current budget year. The deficit is on track to surpass \$1 trillion for all of fiscal 2009 and some economists believe it could go much higher. The Treasury said the deficit for December totaled \$83.6 billion, a sharp deterioration from a year ago when the government managed a surplus of \$48.3 billion. All the red ink is occurring because of the massive spending on the \$700 billion financial rescue program and a prolonged recession, which has depressed tax revenues.

January 14, 200910:00pmThe Ten O'clock NewsJanuary 14, 20095:00a-9:00amThe Morning News

DESCRIPTION: Officials at automotive parts maker Robert Bosch Corp. said 78 workers in Anderson have taken voluntary severance packages. Bosch said 75 employees at its North Charleston plant also accepted the packages. The Anderson plant has 1,340 workers, while the North Charleston facility has 2,100 employees. Bosch spokeswoman Becky MacDonald said the company did not have a goal for how many employees might accept the package. MacDonald said the North Charleston plant plans to eliminate 200 positions in the next few weeks. She said no further reductions are planned in Anderson. The company continues to monitor the automotive industry worldwide, MacDonald said. MacDonald said the severance package includes two weeks' base pay plus one week's pay for each year of service in addition to payment for all accrued vacation and sick time.

 January 15, 2009
 10:00pm
 The Ten O'clock News

 January 15, 2009
 5:00a-9:00am
 The Morning News

DESCRIPTION: Nissan North America Inc. is continuing its four-day work weeks at assembly plants in Tennessee and Mississippi indefinitely. Nissan spokesman Steve Parrett said the cutback from five-day work weeks started in October and is being evaluated on a month-by-month basis. He said the schedule is "just continuing" what the Japanese automaker has been doing at the plants in Smyrna and Canton, Miss. Automakers have cut production with sales slumping. Nissan's sales in the U.S. dropped 11 percent last year.

 January 15, 2009
 10:00pm
 The Ten O'clock News

 January 15, 2009
 5:00a-9:00am
 The Morning News

DESCRIPTION: The number of Americans filing for first-time unemployment benefits rose more than expected last week to 524,000, breaking the halfmillion mark for the first time in 2009, according to a government report released Thursday. The Labor Department said that initial filings for state jobless benefits rose 54,000 for the week ended Jan. 10. Economists polled by Briefing.com expected the reading to rise to 501,000 claims. Jobless claims were revised upward to 470,000 from 467,000 for the week ended Jan. 3. The last time jobless claims exceeded the half-million mark was the week that ended Dec. 20, when claims surged to a 26-year high of 589,000. Ian Shepherdson, an economist with High Frequency Economics in New York, said that the impact of the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays continue to cloud the data of the weekly report. However, he thinks that the jobless claims will rise and he doubts that the peak in claims will be reached before fall. "The weekly numbers are always volatile, but we think a peak above 750,000 is a reasonable, if very depressing, expectation," Shepherdson wrote in a research note. Joshua Shapiro, an economist at Maria Fiorini Ramirez Inc., said the data should begin to show the data should begin to show the direction of the job market by early next month. But he said the report, despite the seasonal volatility, points to more hard times. "Both initial and continuing claims point to a significant rate of deterioration in labor market conditions," Shapiro said in a statement. A four-week average of new unemployment claims fell by 8,000, to an average of 518,500 a week from 526,500 the week prior. The four-week moving average is designed to smooth out some of the week-by-week fluctuations, and give a broader view of the U.S. job market. The number of people continuing to collect unemployment insurance for one week or more fell by 115,000 to 4.49 million in the week ended Jan. 3, the most recent data available. Over the previous four weeks, the number of people on unemployment for one week or more increased by 27,500 to an average of 4.49 million a week, the government said. The greatest number of layoffs were reported in New York, North Carolina, Georgia and South Carolina. Many economists believe that in order to create demand for goods and services, the government needs to revamp the economy with stimulus and deficit spending. President-elect Barack Obama is trying to gain support for his plan to save or create 3 to 4 million jobs by the end of 2010. His proposal includes an expansion of safety net programs, including help to cashstrapped states to pay for unemployment benefits.

January 19, 200910:00pmThe Ten O'clock NewsJanuary 19, 20095:00a-9:00amThe Morning News

DESCRIPTION: Optimism about Barack Obama's first 100 days as president is running high, but Wall Street's post-inaugural celebration may well be short-lived. "I think there's going to be something of an Obama honeymoon for a few weeks," said Terry L. Morris, senior equity manager at National Penn Investor Trust. "But I think there's still a lot of pessimism out there about the economy." Since 1932, stocks, as measured by the S&P 500, have gained an average of 1.6% in the first 100 days of a new president's term regardless of the party. The S&P 500 has gained 0.9% on average under a Republican president and 2.2% under a Democrat like Obama, according to research by Standard & Poor's chief investment strategist Sam Stovall. While a gain is a gain, a 2.2% rise following a year in which the S&P 500 lost 38% - and saw its worst year since the 1930s - does not suggest the rallying cry of a new bull market. In fact, Wall Street could very well see the same market reaction that briefly followed both the November election and the start to 2009, said Joe Arnold, wealth manager at Dawson Wealth Management. "Both times, the optimism had an emotional effect on the stock market for a few days or weeks," said Dawson. "But then the

happiness wore off and people returned to the reality that we are still in this crisis and we don't know when it's going to end." History favors the Democrats: Similar to the first 100 days, stocks tend to perform better for the rest of the year when the Democrats are in power, according to S&P. In the subsequent eight months, stocks on average lose 7.7% under Republicans and gain 4.8% under Democrats going back to 1932. "Election year history favors a Democratic president, but nothing is certain in this world except death, taxes and volatility - of share prices and emotion," wrote Sam Stovall, S&P's chief investment strategist in a recent note. He noted that investors tend to approach the periods surrounding a new president's term with optimism, despite a lack of convincing evidence to justify those rose-colored glasses. Although the first 100 days and the full year are positive on average, there have been plenty of exceptions. In the 19 election years since 1932, stocks only posted full-year gains 60% of the time under Democrats and 55% of the time under Republicans. Will Obama buck the trend? The hope surrounding Obama's election has been compared to the hope felt after John F. Kennedy's election in 1960. For Wall Street, that optimism correlated with higher stock prices. During the first 100 days of JFK's administration, the S&P 500 gained 8.9%. It gained another 9.6% in the rest of the year, according to S&P. But the stock reaction is likely to be different this time as President-elect Obama faces what many describe as the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. Even with an \$825 billion stimulus plan being debated in Congress and the likelihood of further capital infusions from the Federal Reserve, the recession isn't expected to be over until late this year or early next. Also, investors may have already shown their enthusiasm for a new administration and the eventual end to the recession in the recent rallies. As a result, there may not be much of a follow-through this year. Between the bear market lows of Nov. 20 and Jan. 6 of this year, the S&P 500 gained 24%. Since Jan. 6, the S&P 500 has lost 6%. Stocks are perhaps due for a bigger bear market rally in the first half, but the outlook is so cloudy it's hard to see what could cause it, said Drew Kanaly, chairman and CEO at Kanaly Trust Company. "I think a lot of investors are waiting for the new administration to come in," he said. "They want to see what they are going to do first before they start participating more fully in the market."

 January 23, 2009
 10:00pm
 The Ten O'clock News

 January 23, 2009
 5:00a-9:00am
 The Morning News

DESCRIPTION: A new study suggests that building 90 miles of Interstate 73 in South Carolina could create thousands of jobs. The \$2 billion section of expressway would be part of the interstate linking Michigan to Myrtle Beach. It would provide the first expressway connection to the beach, which is the heart of South Carolina's \$16 billion tourism industry. Coastal Carolina University economists project the highway could create 7,720 jobs, including 4,680 construction jobs. Their study also predicts that should all those jobs go to people now unemployed, the area's unemployment could drop below the national average. The study said that during the five-year construction phase, the work would generate nearly \$1.4 billion in household income.

 January 26, 2009
 10:00pm
 The Ten O'clock News

 January 26, 2009
 5:00a-9:00am
 The Morning News

Description: The number of existing homes sold in December rose 6.5% from the previous month, according to a housing industry report released Monday. The National Association of Realtors said that home sales increased to a seasonally-adjusted, annualized rate of 4.74 million units. That's up from a revised 4.45 million units sold in November and more than the 4.4 million units projected by a consensus of industry analysts as reported by Briefing.com. Still, December's existing home sales are down 3.5% compared with December of 2007, when the seasonally-adjusted, annual rate was 4.91 million. Existing homes include single family homes, townhomes, condominiums and co-ops. Thanks to the sales increase, the number of homes available on the market decreased 11.7% in December from the previous month, to 3.68 million. That represents a 9.3-month inventory supply at the current pace of sales, down from a 11.2month supply in November. Bargain prices are bringing buyers back into the market. The median existing home price was down 15.3% to \$175,400 from December 2007, when the median price was \$207,000. The median price measures where half of the homes sold for more and half sold for less. Home prices were pushed lower by the high volume of distressed sales, which accounted for 45% of December transactions according to the report. "It appears some buyers are taking advantage of much lower home prices," said Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist in a written statement. But he warned that the housing market is far from healthy. "The higher monthly sales gain and falling inventory are steps in the right direction, but the market is still far from normal, balanced conditions," said Yun. "Buyers will continue to have an edge over sellers for the foreseeable future." The number of homes sold nationwide was buoyed by a sales surge in the West, where the housing market has been hardest hit by plummeting home prices and a record number of foreclosures. Existing home sales in the West surged 13.6% to an annual rate of 1.25 million in December, up 31.6% higher from a year ago. But the median price in the West was \$213,100, down 31.5% from December 2007. For all of 2008, there were 4,912,000 homes sold, which was the lowest volume since 1997, when there were 4,371,000 homes sold. The 2008 sales volume was down 13.1% from the 5,652,000 existing homes sold in 2007. The Obama administration is at work on an economic recovery plan, and Yun said that this will be critical to the revitalization of the housing industry. "The Obama administration and Congress need to move fast to stimulate a spring sales upturn which will help to stabilize home prices and set the foundation for a sustainable economic recovery," Yun said in a statement

 January 26, 2009
 10:00pm
 The Ten O'clock News

 January 26, 2009
 5:00a-9:00am
 The Morning News

Description: Sprint Nextel Corp. is eliminating about 8,000 positions in the first quarter as it seeks to cut annual costs by \$1.2 billion. The nation's third-largest wireless provider said Monday it will complete the layoffs largely by March 31. About 850 of the reductions are voluntary and the company said it expected a charge of more than \$300 million for severance and other costs. The company is also suspending its 401(k) match for the year, extending a freeze on salary increases and is suspending a tuition reimbursement program. The Overland Park, Kan.-based company has struggled since acquiring Nextel Communications Inc. in 2005 as technical problems, poor efforts to consolidate the two companies and stiff competition for feature-rich phones has led many subscribers to switch to competing services. ING To Lay Off 7,000 Employees Financial giant ING will cut 7,000 jobs this year in an attempt to save \$1.4 billion, CNN reported Monday. The company received \$13.4 billion from the Dutch government in October in an effort to help ING through the global financial crisis. According to CNN, ING also announced Monday that CEO Michel Tilmant was stepping down. His designated replacement is Jan Hommen, the chairman of ING's supervisory board, CNN reported. Home Depot To Cut 7,000 Jobs Home Depot Inc. said it's cutting 7,000 jobs and closing its smaller Expo chain as the recession continues to batter the nation's housing market. The nation's largest home improvement retailer said the cuts announced Monday morning will affect about 2 percent of its work force. Under the plan, the Atlanta-based retailer will close its 34 Expo Design Centers, five Yard BIRDS stores, two Design Center stores and a bath remodeling business that has seven locations. Those stores will close in the next two months. Its core Home Depot stores

won't be affected. The company also plans to shed 2,000 non-store jobs and freeze the pay of its officers. Home Depot will record a \$532 million pretax charge in the fourth quarter related to the closures and layoffs. Deere, Caterpillar To Reduce Staffing Farm-equipment maker Deere & Co. said it will lay off almost 700 workers at factories in Brazil and Iowa, and heavy equipment maker Caterpillar Inc. said it plans to lay off workers to make up for fourth-quarter losses. The Moline, Ill.-based Deere said it will fire 502 workers at an agricultural harvesting equipment plant in Horizontina, Brazil. It will also lay off or temporarily reassign 190 employees at a plant in Davenport, Iowa, which makes construction and forestry equipment. The Deere employees were informed last week. In November, Deere announced that South American market sales could drop by 20 percent and worldwide construction and forestry equipment sales could fall by 12 percent. In the past six months, Deere has laid off 188 employees at the John Deere Dubuque Works in Iowa. Caterpillar said its fourth-quarter earnings tumbled 32 percent in the fourth quarter, hurt by higher operating costs and a global economic downturn that curbed demand for its products. It forecast lower sales and profits for 2009. Caterpillar's fourth-quarter decline to \$1.08 per share reflects the slowing world economy as its earth-moving machines and other equipment are used in global industries such as mining and construction. It earned \$975 million, or \$1.50 per share, in the year-earlier period. Revenue rose 6 percent to \$12.92 billion. Analysts estimated Caterpillar would earn \$1.31 per share on revenue of \$12.84 billion. Caterpillar has said it plans to lay off workers, slash executive compensation and offer buyouts to 25,000 U.S.-based employees.

 January 26, 2009
 10:00pm
 The Ten O'clock News

 January 26, 2009
 5:00a-9:00am
 The Morning News

Description: Home sales in South Carolina dropped sharply last year -- down 24 percent, according to South Carolina Realtors. The median price of homes also declined, down 3.5 percent, according to the latest report from the group which represents 18,000 state members of the National Association of Realtors. Last year, almost 47,000 homes, condos and villas were sold in the state. That's down from almost 62,000 the previous year. The median price of a home in South Carolina last month was \$139,500 -- down almost 8 percent from \$151,400 in December of 2007.

January 28, 200910:00pmThe Ten O'clock NewsJanuary 28, 20095:00a-9:00amThe Morning News

Description: As job losses mount, so do unemployment claims and the delays in getting those checks are getting longer. "Whew ... we have been very busy these days," said claims examiner Yvette Gwinn. She said 800 to 900 people come through the doors of the One Stop Shop office every day. Many people say they are having a tough time getting unemployment checks. She has some advice. "The biggest mistake is when they first sign up for their unemployment. They're not answering the questions correctly. And then we have to get the correct information and get it in the system" Gwinn said. Claims handlers need to know a claimants last employers and exactly why it is that the claimant is unemployed. Certain criteria have to be met in order for claimants to qualify for unemployment benefits. "If you lose your job through no fault of your own or get laid off, you qualify for unemployment benefits. If you quit your job or are dismissed, we have to take a statement on why you are no longer with that employer and that's where the delay is in making the decision," Gwinn said. A delay can be up to four or five weeks. Gwinn said the state office is backlogged with so many questionable claims that it has been hard to get through them all. "We like to do them within 14 days, but because of the numbers, it's just impossible," Gwinn said.

January 30, 200910:00pmThe Ten O'clock NewsJanuary 30, 20095:00a-9:00amThe Morning News

Description: One-third of North Carolina counties are dealing with double-digit <u>unemployment</u> rates, and the pain is expected to spread in the coming months. The state Employment Securities Commission reported Friday that the number of counties with double-digit jobless rates doubled to 34 in December, from 17 counties the month before. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate in December at 13.9 percent. Orange County had the lowest at 4.8 percent. Big layoffs are everywhere, but especially in manufacturing, which generates about a fifth of North Carolina's total <u>business</u>. Earlier this month, truck maker Freightliner announced it was eliminating 1,400 workers at plants in Rowan and Gaston counties.

February 2, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 2, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Officials at Carowinds said about 3,400 people have already applied for jobs at the amusement park, triple the usual number for this time of year. Carowinds Human Resources Director Sandy Cranford told The Charlotte Observer that the park usually has 1,000 applications about now for the 2,100 temporary summer jobs at the park on the North Carolina and South Carolina state line just south of Charlotte. Cranford said the jobs usually attract college <u>students</u>, but this year she is seeing older job seekers. She said she has even had people with MBAs, and they are not just applying for high-end work. Cranford said the amusement park has positions available not only selling food and taking tickets, but also in <u>security</u>, human resources and safety.

February 6, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 6, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Spartanburg County Sheriff Chuck Wright says he has decided to have his deputies take six unpaid days off after all. Wright had originally planned to cut his officers' pay by the equivalent of six days until the end of June to help the county with its budget woes. But Wright told the Herald-Journal of Spartanburg he changed his mind Thursday after he was told there

was no guarantee the money would be there to return <u>salaries</u> to their previous levels on July 1. Wright said he will allow supervisors to schedule the furloughs. Spartanburg County Administrator Glenn Breed ordered the county's 1,400 employees to take a six-day furlough to help close a \$5.4 million hole in the budget. That order didn't include the Sheriff's Department, but Wright said he wanted to help the county avoid layoffs.

February 6, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 6, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Thousands of people lined up for 500 jobs that will be available when a new water park opens next month near a speedway in North Carolina. The Independent Tribune of Concord and Kannapolis reports that nearly 4,000 people came to Lowes Motor Speedway on Thursday to apply for jobs at Great Wolf Lodge. Curtis Brown with Great Wolf Resorts attributed some of the turnout to economic problems and layoffs. Brown says the company usually interviews about 5,000 applicants over three days before a new resort opens. Interviews were to continue Friday and Saturday. The Wisconsin company is hiring in departments from housekeeping and front desk to spa services. The 36-acre development will have 402 guest rooms and an 80,000-square-foot indoor water park.

February 9, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 9, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: South Carolina Commerce Secretary Joe Taylor has added a new wrinkle to the nation's third-highest unemployment rate by saying drug use is keeping people from getting jobs. Taylor briefed Gov. Mark Sanford and his Cabinet on Monday about why he pushed the Employment Security Commission to document why people are out of work and how frequently they claim jobless benefits. Taylor said the state needs to teach people that failed drug tests will keep them out of work for months. He said recruiting businesses to places with high drug test failure rates does not help. The commission's three members face a Monday deadline to turn over information to Sanford or risk being fired. Sanford said his office will review the data before he decides their fate. South Carolina's jobless rate was 9.5 percent in December.

February 11, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 11, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: A plant that makes hoses and tubing in South Carolina says it plans a \$5 million expansion that could create as many as 200 new jobs. The Index-Journal of Greenwood reported Wednesday that Flexible Technologies currently has 237 employees at its three plants around Abbeville. Abbeville County Director Scott Moulder said the expansion shows the county's economy can still grow in tough times. The county's unemployment rate was 11.4 percent in December. Flexible Technologies makes flexible hosing and rigid tubing to heat and move liquids in airplanes, medical devices and other industrial machines. The company is a subsidiary of Flex-Tek, which is part of the global technology company Smiths Group.

February 12, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 12, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: U.S. retail sales jumped 1 percent in January, reversing a six-month declining trend and defying economists' expectations by posting the biggest increase in 14 months. The Commerce Department said January retail sales rose a percent from December after having fallen for six straight months. Wall Street economists surveyed by Thomson Reuters had expected January sales to show a drop of 0.8 percent. They plunged 2.7 percent in December, which had the weakest holiday selling season since at least 1969. The January report showed strong increases in sales of automobiles and in general merchandise stores -- the "big box" outlets -- though sales by department stores, carrying fewer varieties of items, posted a decline.

February 12, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 12, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Two Chevrolet dealers in Greenville County have called it quits. Kevin Whitaker Chevrolet in Travelers Rest closed on Friday; however, another dealership by the same name on Laurens Road in Greenville will stay open. The dealership said its employees were recently told about the change and almost all of them at the Travelers Rest location have been given jobs at the Greenville location. The owner, Kevin Whitaker, told FOX Carolina by phone that he considers the closing a win-win situation. He said instead of splitting customers between two businesses, they will be able to come to one central location. Also shifting its customers to the Greenville dealership is Simpsonville Chevrolet. The General-Motors-owned business closed on Thursday. The closures left about 24 without a job. Whitaker said any outstanding warranties from vehicles bought at either dealership will be honored at any GM dealer.

February 13, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 13, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News Description: Toyota Motor Corp. is cutting production at its North American plants in response to the slump in U.S. auto sales. Toyota said the cuts will begin in April at its auto-parts plants in West Virginia, Alabama and Missouri, and at its auto assembly plants in Indiana, Kentucky and Texas. "We've taken responsible, step-by-step actions to address this issue in recent months, and we hope the new measures will help us adjust while protecting jobs," said Jim Wiseman, vice president of external affairs for Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing North America in a statement. The production schedule at some plants in April will be reduced by between two and eight days, according to the amount of inventory at each plant. Toyota said it's also instituting a shorter workweek at some plants. Affected hourly employees would work eight hours less per two-week period, taking a pay cut with the new 72-hour workweek. Employees at the company's plant in San Antonio, Texas, said Thursday that they would be offered voluntary buyouts and unpaid leave, KSAT-TV reported. The leave of absence would include benefits and the promise of a job when the economy strengthens, according to the employees. The world's No. 1 automaker said 18,000 workers would be offered buyouts nationwide. The automaker said it's also slashing executives' compensation up to 30 percent. Unionized plants in the U.S. and Mexico will not be affected. Toyota had previously frozen North American hiring, eliminated overtime, suspended capital spending and scheduled periodic cuts in production.

February 13, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 13, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Wal-Mart said Thursday it is moving one of its Georgia facilities to Spartanburg County, bringing with it hundreds of jobs. A representative from Wal-Mart told FOX Carolina News that it is laying off 400 people at its return center in Macon, Ga., and shifting to a facility in the Upstate. The company said the facility in Georgia will close on Sept. 13. Wal-Mart said economic conditions were not a factor in the decision. The company said the Macon facility is too small to serve the Southeast region. On Tuesday, Wal-Mart said it would lay off between 700 and 800 people from its Bentonville, Ark., headquarters, a move largely based on changes to adapt to the slow economy. Although the announcement is bad for Georgia, the move is great news for Spartanburg County. The company said it plans to hire up to 400 people at the Upstate facility. The new facility on Blackstock Road is already under construction.

February 17, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 17, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Hundreds of people lined up outside the Bi-Lo Center on Tuesday afternoon in hopes of grabbing one of 60 jobs being offered during the upcoming season of the Greenville Drive. Even though the doors did not open until 5:30 p.m., some people lined up outside hours ahead of time, evidence of the tough economy. "I've been here since about three o'clock," said Dennis Scales, a job seeker. "It's just something we have to go through right now." The jobs include positions like attendants, hostesses, bat boys and equipment operators. Most will pay \$7 an hour plus tips. "It's not your typical job," said Butch Stevens, who was at Tuesday's job fair. "I almost feel guilty getting paid to do it, but we'll take paychecks too. I mean jobs are tough right now." Some of the people who were hired at the job fair will start on March 11 when Fluor Field at the West End plays host to a college baseball game. The Greenville Drive begin their baseball season in April.

February 19, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 19, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford is deciding how to handle extended jobless benefits and a \$25 weekly increase in checks contained in a \$787 billion federal stimulus package. Sanford spokesman Joel Sawyer said Wednesday the Republican governor is still sorting out what role he will play in those decisions. Sawyer said the governor is still working his way through questions about handling stimulus spending in the state. The South Carolina Employment Security Commission said it is up to the governor to sign off on those benefit requests. South Carolina's 9.5 percent unemployment rate in December was the nation's third highest. The state is paying out about \$29 million weekly in regular and extended benefits to about 140,000 people.

February 19, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 19, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: South Carolina's Republican governor said his state will accept money from President Barack Obama's stimulus plan even though he is ideologically opposed to it. Gov. Mark Sanford said being against the plan "doesn't preclude taking the money." Sanford said Thursday on CBS' "The Early Show" that he took a stand against the president's economic plan because it's "a bad idea." But he said ultimately he represents the interests of the almost 5 million people of his state, and he will look over the plan and decide which parts would help South Carolina. Sanford also expressed skepticism about Obama's plan to reduce home foreclosures. The governor said throwing enough money at any problem would help some people.

February 20, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 20, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: People began lining up early Friday morning at a job fair in Spartanburg County. They all hoped to snag a job at the new Wal-Mart return center that is moving to the Upstate. The job fair will be held over the next few days at Spartanburg Community College's Tyger River Campus. The return center, which was located in Macon, Ga., is being relocated to Spartanburg County off North Blackstock Road. The business is expected to bring 500 jobs with it. Dozens of people were waiting outside the job fair hoping to get hired. "I was just recently laid off," said Michelle Bowmen, who attended the job fair. "I used to work in the automotive industry. I have qualifications in distribution, 12 years experience. So, I'm looking, hopefully, to get a job today." The fair runs from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The fair will open at 10 a.m. Sunday and will close at 5 p.m. For more information on the available jobs, call 864-573-7525

February 23, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 23, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: The major market indexes have staggered to their lowest levels in a decade, pulled lower by investors' rapidly waning confidence. The S&P 500 index fell to April 1997 levels Monday and the Dow sunk to October 1997 levels -- as investors succumbed to their growing worries about a recession that has no end in sight. Most financial stocks were pounded even as government agencies led by the Treasury Department said they will launch a revamped bank rescue program that includes the option of increasing government ownership in financial institutions without having to pour more taxpayer money into them. Technology stocks are also falling after the Wall Street Journal reported that Yahoo Inc.'s new chief executive is planning a companywide reorganization. Although the government has said it doesn't want to nationalize banks, many investors are clearly still concerned that this could be a possibility as banks continue to suffer severe losses because of the recession. They're also worried that banks' losses will keep escalating as the recession sends more borrowers into default. The market's decline extends massive losses from last week when the major stock indexes tumbled more than 6 percent. The major indexes plunged through the lows they reached in late November, at the height of the credit crisis. In the final hour of trading, the Dow dropped 250 points to 7,114. The S&P 500 index fell 26 points to 743. The technology-laden Nasdaq composite index dropped 53 points to 1,387.

February 24, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 24, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Milliken and Company said it is cutting 650 jobs across its 47 locations worldwide. The company said the reduction is attributed to a significant downturn in the markets it serves. "We have done everything we could to avoid arriving at this point," said Richard Dillard, director of public relations at Milliken. "It is a gut-wrenching process to have to tell some of your good, loyal, hard working people that, through no fault of their own, you have no work available for them." Dillard said that while the company is financially strong, unfortunate steps must be taken to make sure it remains that way. Milliken, which is based in Spartanburg, did not say how many of the job cuts will affect its Upstate operations.

February 24, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 24, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association is laying off 55 employees, or about 10 percent of its staff. The Charlotte Observer reported Monday that Ken Barun, the ministry's senior vice president for communications, said that in the current economy, the association needs to be sure it is tightening its belt as much as it can. Barun said the layoffs and other cost-cutting should slice the annual budget by about 15 percent, reducing it to \$84 million. Barun said contributions have been "relatively flat," and the association has seen a downturn in revenues from sales of products such as books and returns on endowment funds. A few of the 55 positions being eliminated are based at The Cove, the Billy Graham Training Center in Montreat; however, most of the positions are based in Charlotte.

February 25, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 25, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: As in the case of Franklin D. Roosevelt 75 years ago, part of President Barack Obama's both is to connect with Americans at a time of crisis. And while his nationally televised speech was hardly a "fireside chat" like FDR's, he aimed to ease fears and look to the future all the same. "Tonight I want every American to know this: We will rebuild, we will recover, and the United States of America will emerge stronger than before," he said before Congress. The majority of his speech focused on the economic news that continues to pile up. Some 3.6 million jobs have disappeared so far in the deepening recession, which now ranks as the biggest job destroyer in the post-World War II period. Americans have lost trillions of dollars in retirement, college and savings accounts, with the stock market falling nearly half from its peak of 16 months ago. The president said even more money may be needed to rescue troubled banks beyond the \$700 billion already committed. Most people who spoke to

The Associated Press gave his speech good grades. Fred Elliott, owner of a Coldwell Banker realty office in Florida, said Obama "speaks to people very well." Indiana resident Terry Swihart said Obama has a self-confidence the country hasn't seen in a while. "He seemed a little more upbeat, instead of just crisis, crisis, crisis," said Melissa Must, who runs a coffee shop in downtown Cincinnati. But uncertainty remains over the time frame and the promises. Jaime Silahua watched the speech in the San Francisco suburb of Antioch. "He inherited a country with grave problems," Silahua said. "The change is going to take some time. He'll start it, and probably the next president will finish it." Pennsylvanian Robert Lombardi said, "These are just words, and now we're going to see what the actions are." Added Swihart, "I hope it's not just rhetoric." Obama's hope in giving the speech was to ease fears and begin to persuade the country that those longer-term items on his presidential agenda are as important to the nation's economic well-being as unchoking credit and turning around unemployment numbers. "The only way this century will be another American century is if we confront at last the price of our dependence on oil and the high cost of health care, the schools that aren't preparing our children and the mountain of debt they stand to inherit. That is our responsibility," Obama said. He also said Obama America is facing a "day of reckoning." He called on politicians and the public alike to embrace shared sacrifice and asked Congress to move quickly on financial legislation. GOP Leaders Say Obama's Plan Irresponsible: The tone of the Republican response to Obama's speech to Congress was in keeping with the party's nearly unanimous opposition to the economic stimulus bill. Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal called the \$787 billion stimulus package "irresponsible" and said it will expand the government, lead to higher taxes and saddle future generations with even more debt. Jindal, who could be a candidate for president in 2012, gave the official Republican response. Other top Republicans also said Obama relies too heavily on spending, and not enough on tax cuts, to try to revive the gasping economy. Jindal acknowledged that to some degree, Republicans deserved the drubbing they took in the last two national elections. He said they "went along with earmarks and big government spending." Now, he said, the GOP will work to regain voters' trust.

February 25, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 25, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: County government leaders said they will be forced to cut police, fire and medical workers if the state carries through with plans to take about \$122 million historically earmarked for counties and cities as legislators balance the state budget. More than 100 County Council members and administrators from around the state gathered at the Statehouse Wednesday to protest the House Ways and Means proposal to slash \$122 million from its aid to local governments. The president of the South Carolina Association of Counties said counties already are reeling under the pressure of tax increase limits the state imposed a couple of years ago and the recession. Greg Pearce said Richland County would lose \$2 million from the sheriff's operations and possibly 20 emergency medical workers losing jobs.

March 6, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 6, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: South Carolina is one of five states being considered by Carbon Motors Corporation as a home for its manufacturing campus. If South Carolina is chosen, the move could bring 10,000 new jobs to the Upstate. Carbon Motors makes the E-7 vehicle, which is a car specifically designed for police work, from the ground up. The company said the ICAR campus in Greenville County is one of the many reasons the Upstate made the short list of possible plant sites. Carbon Motors CEO William Li said the strong labor force and the area's commitment to automotive engineering also makes the Upstate an attractive final destination. "Our 840,000 first responders are driving around in vehicles designed in the 1970s that are designed to take you to the grocery store," Li said. "Obviously, this is no longer appropriate. So what we've done is develop 11 prototypes of that vehicle and have taken them around the country. Now, we're looking for a site where we are going to place 10,000 direct and indirect jobs." The company would house its entire operation in the location chosen, and it hopes to start production of the vehicles by 2012. Carbon Motors said its initial move would create about 1,500 jobs and indirectly create another 8,500 jobs in 10 years. It said the move would have a \$3 billion economic impact. The company said it is waiting to hear proposals from each of the five states on the company's list. It said a decision will be made by the end of summer.

March 10, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 10, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: A container business will bring more than 60 jobs and invest more than \$1 million over the next three years, the Greenville Area Development Corporation said Tuesday. Container Design and Solutions, LLC announced launch plans for its Greenville operations. Company President Russ Crowe said hires for the jobs will be made over the next two or three years. CDS, which is a sister company to Progressive Packaging, will be located at the former Kemet facility at the 1224 Industrial Center on Old Stage Road in Greenville. "The strategic expansion of CDS into this new space perfectly complements the capabilities of Progressive Packaging, as we work to serve the packaging needs of our clients wherever they do business," Crowe said. Progressive Packaging makes a line of packaged products, custom folding cartons, die-cuts, custom corrugated containers, industrial shrink and stretch film, as well as many other packaging products. "Container Design and Solutions' decision to invest in Greenville is a positive reflection of the state's pro-business environment and dedicated workforce," said

South Carolina Commerce Secretary Joe Taylor. Crowe, who is a Clemson <u>University</u> graduate, formed Progressive Packaging in 1995.

March 11, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 11, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: South Carolina's unemployment rate has hit its highest rate in nearly 26 years. The state Employment Security Commission reported Wednesday that the jobless rate soared to 10.4 percent in January. The agency said the number of people without jobs in South Carolina climbed to a record high of nearly 228,000 in January. The unemployment rate was 8.8 percent in December. January's figure was the highest since April 1983, when the rate reached 10.7 percent. Officials said South Carolina lost 42,800 jobs in January. The Employment Security Commission has gotten federal loans to pay for unemployment benefits as claims continue to rise. Gov. Mark Sanford has been fighting with the agency for months, saying it is mismanaged.

March 13, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 13, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: The recession has hit downtown Greer's Trade Street hard. Three high-end restaurants have closed in the past few months. The most recent was Justin's Steak House, which had been open for about three years. The steak house's owner said that advertising and adding lunch hours were not enough to save the establishment. Justin's Steak House is still open at its Spartanburg and Greenville locations. Another Greer restaurant, Café Rivera, said it is hopeful there are better times ahead. "We have just as many opportunities down here as any of the other places around us that might be a little bigger," said Lucinda Rivera, Café Rivera's owner. "We still have a really good cultural center down here." According to the Greer Development Corporation there are several perspective tenants looking to move in to downtown. Planners said Cazbah, which is currently open in downtown Greenville, will open a location in Greer in April. They said The Grapevine is expanding its existing location in Greer.

 March 16, 2009
 10:00pm
 The Ten O'clock News

 March 16, 2009
 5:00a-9:00am
 The Morning News

Description: Reassuring comments on the economy from Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke gave stocks an initial boost on Monday, but stocks failed to continue a streak of four straight gains. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 7 points to close at 7,217. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 3 points to finish the day at 754, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq closed 27 points down at 1,404. Despite Monday's small decline, the market's tone has changed dramatically in the past week as better economic news -- including word that Citigroup Inc. had operated at a profit in January and February -- had investors betting that Wall Street had finally hit a bottom. The Fed chairman's comments Sunday helped reinforce the changing sentiment on the Street. Appearing on CBS' "60 Minutes," Bernanke said the United States' recession "probably" will end this year if the government succeeds in bolstering the banking system Bernanke seemed to express a bit more optimism that this could be done. Still, Bernanke stressed that the prospects for the recession ending this year and a recovery taking root next year hinge on a difficult task: getting banks to lend more freely again and getting the financial markets to work more normally. Bernanke said, "We've seen some progress in the financial markets, absolutely." But he added, "Until we get that stabilized and working normally, we're not going to see recovery." He said the government is working on a plan that he thinks will stabilize the financial system. But Bernanke said even if the recession ends this year, the unemployment rate will keep climbing past the current 8.1 percent. And the White House said that even the unemployment is only a temporary "mess." The U.S. unemployment rate, released last week, rose to 8.1 percent in February, the highest in more than 25 years. Economic adviser Christina Romer told NBC's "Meet the Press" that the fundamentals of the United States economy are sound "in the sense that the American workers are sound, we have a good capital stock, we have good technology." His comments on CBS' "60 Minutes" followed news that business at Citigroup Inc. and Bank of American Corp. has improved during the early part of 2009. That helped spark a four-day rally last week led by financial stocks, which were rising again Monday.

March 19, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 19, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Bearings and specialty steels maker Timken Co. said it will lay off 14 percent of its full-time staff at a South Carolina plant. Company spokeswoman Lorrie Paul Crum on Thursday confirmed that 65 positions are being cut at the Honea Path facility. Crum said the cuts are part of Timken's overall cost-cutting measures because of a slowing market for its products. Earlier this month, the Canton, Ohio, company said it would cut 400 salaried jobs this year, or almost 2 percent of its overall work force. The cuts are the second announced by Timken in South Carolina in as many months. Last month, the company said it would lay off 60 full-time workers at its plant in Gaffney on March 1. Timken has six locations in South Carolina, according to its Web site

March 19, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 19, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Direct Brands Inc. is consolidating distribution and support for its DVD and music club <u>businesses</u> and will close centers in Indiana and South Carolina, cutting more than 400 jobs. The New York-based company, formerly known as BMG Columbia <u>House</u>, said Wednesday it will close facilities in Indianapolis and Terre Haute, Ind., and Duncan, S.C., by the end of the year. Company spokeswoman Paula Batson said the cuts will involve about 170 employees in South Carolina, 152 in Indianapolis and 147 at Terre Haute. The cutbacks are expected to begin in May. Operations at the closed facilities will be consolidated at existing centers in Hanover and Mechanicsburg, Pa. Employees whose jobs are cut will be eligible to apply for open positions.

March 24, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 24, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Southern grocery chain Bi-Lo has filed a voluntary petition for bankruptcy protection to address an upcoming debt maturity. The company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy relief on Monday in the United States Bankruptcy Court, District of South Carolina. Details of the credit agreement terms were not immediately available but the company said it has met all the loan's terms so far. Bi-Lo management said in a statement that in a normal credit environment it would expect to refinance the loan on "reasonable terms in the ordinary course of business" as its maturity date approaches. But the company determined it needed to file for bankruptcy protection to continue operating because of the current tight credit market. "On an operational level, we are making significant progress this year and we have seen solid sales momentum and strong cash flow," said Bi-Lo President and CEO Michael Byars. Bi-Lo, based in Mauldin, S.C., operates 215 supermarkets in South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee.

 March 27, 2009
 10:00pm
 The Ten O'clock News

 March 27, 2009
 5:00a-9:00am
 The Morning News

Description: North Carolina's unemployment rate has hit its highest recorded level, rising to 10.7 percent in February. The Employment Security Commission said Friday the rate increased from 9.7 percent in January. The state's highest previous jobless rate was 10.2 percent in February 1983. The commission said the number of people unemployed in February increased by almost 52,000 people to 491,067. The national unemployment rate was 8.1 percent in February. The state's records go back only to 1976, when the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics standardized its current analysis method. Jobless rates were not recalculated to estimate unemployment during the Great Depression. Federal employment officials said North Carolina reported the fourth-highest jobless rate in the country in February. SC Jobless Rate Hits 25-Year High: South Carolina's unemployment rate increased to 11 percent in February. The Employment Security Commission said Friday the rate was up from the revised 10.3 percent rate for January. It's the highest jobless rate in South Carolina since March 1983, when the rate was 11.1 percent. The commission said the number of unemployed in January increased by 15,000 people to 241,000. The national unemployment rate was 8.1 percent in February. Allendale County had the highest unemployment rate at 23.4 percent. Lexington County had the lowest rate at 7.9 percent. Gov. Mark Sanford has said much of the unemployment problem comes from growth in the state's labor force. The commission said the labor force increased by nearly 5,600 in February. The federal government said South Carolina reported the second-highest jobless rate in the country in February, just behind Michigan.

March 30, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 30, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Wall Street's big March rally is officially on hold as President Barack Obama on Monday rejected the turnaround plans from General Motors Corp. and Chrysler and set tough new deadlines for the two automakers to develop new restructuring plans. In a White House speech, Obama said the companies -- and the auto industry -- must stand on their own, not as "wards of the state" supported by tax dollars. But he also wants the two companies to come up with feasible plans that show they deserve billions more federal bailout dollars. "Our auto industry is not moving in the right direction fast enough," he said, adding, "We cannot, we must not, and we will not let our auto industry simply vanish." All the major indexes are down more than 3.5 percent, including the Dow which lost as much as 300 points in midday trading. Fears of an automaker bankruptcy have been looming for months, and the latest developments are making the market even more uneasy about the industry. However, analysts said the pullback, which began with Friday's trading, isn't surprising after the Dow had surged 21 percent over just 13 days. Chrysler will get up to \$6 billion and 30 days to complete a just-announced deal with Italian automaker Fiat. GM is getting 60 days worth of financing to restructure. Earlier, the Obama administration replaced GM CEO Rick Wagoner with the company's chief operating officer, Fritz Henderson. "This is not meant as a criticism of Mr. Wagoner, who has devoted his life to this company; rather it's a recognition that it will take a new vision and new direction to create the GM of the future," Obama said. GM has already received \$13.4 billion in loans and Chrysler \$4 billion. Obama raised the specter of

using bankruptcy laws to force the companies' restructuring if they fall short. Obama Offers Incentives: As he sounded the warning bell for GM and Chrysler, Obama also said the federal government is preparing to offer incentives to get Americans to buy more U.S.-made cars. He said the IRS will start notifying consumers who purchased cars after Feb. 16 that they can deduct the cost of any sales and excise taxes. The program would remain in effect until year's end. Obama also said he wants to work with Congress to use parts of the economic stimulus package to fund a program that would allow consumers to get a "generous credit" when they replace an older, less fuel-efficient car and buy a new, cleaner car.

March 31, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 31, 2009 5:00a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: General Motors Corp.'s new chief executive said more of the automaker's plants could close as part of GM's effort to meet new tougher requirements for government aid. In his first press conference as CEO, Fritz Henderson said Tuesday that he expects the company would "need to take further measures" in terms of plant closures. He was referring to plants beyond the five plants the company said it would shutter when it submitted a restructuring plan to the government last month. President Barack Obama said Monday that GM's plan didn't go far enough. Henderson took over GM on Monday, after the Obama administration asked former CEO Rick Wagoner to resign. The company has 60 days to make more cuts and get more concessions from bondholders and unions or it faces bankruptcy. On Monday, Obama set tough new deadlines for GM and Chrysler to develop new restructuring plans after rejecting their initial plans. In a White House speech, Obama said the companies -- and the auto industry -- must stand on their own, not as "wards of the state" supported by tax dollars. But he also wants the two companies to come up with feasible plans that show they deserve billions more federal bailout dollars. Henderson also said a decision on the fate of GM's Hummer brand will come in the next few weeks. Obama Administration Criticized For Auto Stance: On Tuesday, a Senate Republican whose state is home to auto manufacturing plants said that the Obama administration's aggressive intervention in the industry sets "a very dangerous precedent." Sen. Bob Corker, of Tennessee, said it wasn't just the forced ouster of Waggoner that caused him concern. He accused the administration of taking a "we know best" attitude in connection with the problems in the domestic industry and said that should "send a chill throughout the country." Interviewed on CBS's "The Early Show," Corker charged that Waggoner's firing "was something of a sideshow to take away from the fact that no real progress" had been made in negotiations to steady the failing auto company. "We're evolving into a place that this country has not seen. I want to raise alarm bells," Corker said.

Attachments

Quality of Life

ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED FIRST OUARTER 2009

Problem/Need: QUALITY OF LIFE

DATE TIME PROGRAM

Sundays 9:30 am TAYLORS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>: A church service that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)

January 19, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News January 19, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

DESCRIPTION: More than a thousand people have gathered at the South Carolina Statehouse to honor the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Monday's turnout was one of the smallest crowds ever for the state NAACP's annual King Day at the Dome rally, officials said. They said Tuesday's inauguration of Barack Obama also made it one of the most hopeful gatherings since they began in 2000. Plenty of people were wearing Obama buttons and stickers. A man on the corner across from the Statehouse sold Obama T-shirts. State NAACP President Lonnie Randolph told the crowd this country still has a long way to go to reach King's dream. He said there is still plenty of inequality in education, justice and earning power. The rally began with a prayer service and a five-block march to the Statehouse.

January 19, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News January 19, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: The mood is a festive one as crowds start to jam Washington, D.C., in advance of Tuesday's inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama. On the National Mall, amid a light snowfall, small groups have been gathering around largescreen TVs showing reruns of Sunday afternoon's concert. And on the specially built inaugural stands outside the Capitol, musicians Yo-Yo Ma and Itzhak Perlman have been rehearsing for their role in the ceremonies. On a corner near the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, the Boy's Choir of Kenya performed an impromptu selection for the crowd. A student from the University of Washington, Donald Butler, said "everybody's excited." Butler said he "just had to be" in Washington to see history made. But there are also signs of the heavy security that will be in place. Uniformed military personnel are stationed at street corners. The pre-inaugural parties continued in Washington, D.C. There's the Black Tie & Boots Inaugural Ball sponsored by the Texas State Society. Former Vice President Al Gore is hosting a Green Inaugural Ball. And hip-hop celebs Russell Simmons and LL Cool J, among others, will headline an event hosted by the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network. Michelle Obama is hosting a children's concert honoring military families. It will be held at a downtown Washington arena. The entertainers will include Miley Cyrus and the Jonas Brothers. Obama Urges People To Serve Others: Obama appealed to the nation to honor slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King by making a commitment to serve others. On the eve of his own inauguration, Obama issued a statement Monday saying that King's life was lived in loving service to others. Monday is the federal holiday commemorating the birthday of King, and Obama was leading a day of community service. "As we honor that legacy, it's not a day just to pause and reflect -- it's a day to act," Obama said. "I ask the American people to turn today's efforts into an ongoing commitment to enriching the lives of others in their communities, their cities, and their country." Accompanied by Martin Luther King III, Obama visited the Sasha Bruce House, an emergency homeless shelter for teens in the nation's capital. At point, Obama took off his jacket, grabbed a paint roller and pitched in as workers were painting a wall. He later joined up with his wife, who spent the morning putting together care packages for U.S. troops, at a luncheon that promoted community service. He told the community service group that government "can't do it alone" and urged them to get involved. He said Americans can't simply wait for "somebody else" to clean up a vacant lot or tutor a child -- because it would "never get done." Instead, he said, everyone has to take responsibility. At the same time, Obama promised to "make government work" -and to see to it that people are able to stay in their homes, make a living wage, and get health care. Obama began Monday with an unscheduled stop at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where he met with those wounded during their military service. Later, Obama will make appearances at dinners honoring Vice President-elect Joe Biden, former Secretary of State Colin Powell and Sen. John McCain, the man he defeated last November.

January 30, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News January 30, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: An Upstate organization is hoping to get a better idea of the number of homeless people living in the area. At least 100 volunteers met in downtown Greenville on Thursday night before fanning out to campsites and shelters across the

county. The mission is to survey the homeless population of Greenville County. Officials with SHARE, a Greenville-based service group, is conducting the survey in an effort to get more funding for homeless programs, including housing, shelters and counseling. Many of the volunteers said this is an opportunity for them to reach out to those during a crisis. "I think there needs to be more counselors," said Mary Campbell, one of the volunteers. "Greenville will get that (after this survey)." The volunteers also passed out blankets, coats and food to the homeless who were being surveyed. Officials said early estimates show there are between 1,000 and 1,200 people in shelters across Greenville County.

February 5, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 5, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Michael Phelps has been suspended from competition for three months by USA Swimming, the latest fallout from a photo that showed the Olympic great inhaling from a marijuana pipe. The sport's national governing body also cut off its financial support to Phelps for the same three-month period, effective Thursday. "This is not a situation where any anti-doping rule was violated, but we decided to send a strong message to Michael because he disappointed so many people, particularly the hundreds of thousands of USA Swimming member kids who look up to him as a role model and a hero," the federation said in a statement. "Michael has voluntarily accepted this reprimand and has committed to earn back our trust." Phelps won eight gold medals in Beijing. Earlier, Phelps talked about learning from his mistakes and his future career plans in his first TV interview since the photo was published. When asked by WBAL-TV how he was doing, he said, "I guess as good as I can. Being able to have support through times like this is the most important thing -- I'm really able to find out who my true friends and family are, because they're supporting me through it all." Phelps said other athletes have been helping him get through it. "There are a lot of people who have been in my shoes in other sports and that's been a lot of help the last couple of days," he said. Phelps said he wanted his supporters and fans around the world to know it's important to learn from your mistakes. "The biggest thing is, I clearly made some bad judgments and mistakes in my life, and I think the best thing is to learn from your mistakes. That's already what I've done and what I continue to do. I'm going to do everything I can in the pool. I'm already back in the water training, and still deciding on a lot of things. But I'm happy to be back in the water," he said. Phelps told WBAL that swimming makes him happy and helps him relax. But when asked if he would be competing in the World Championships in Rome this summer and in London at the 2012 Olympics, he said while swimming has been a part of his life for so long, he isn't ready to decide if swimming is part of his long-term career plans. The marijuana photo eventually wound up in Star Magazine, forcing Phelps to publicly apologize. Star Magazine said the picture of the marijuana incident was taken during a November house party while Phelps was visiting the University of South Carolina. "I engaged in behavior which was regrettable and demonstrated bad judgment," Phelps said in the statement released by one of his agents after the incident. "I'm 23 years old and despite the successes I've had in the pool, I acted in a youthful and inappropriate way, not in a manner people have come to expect from me. For this, I am sorry. I promise my fans and the public it will not happen again." After the 2004 Athens Games, an underage Phelps was arrested for drunken driving, pleaded guilty and apologized to his fans, saying he wouldn't make the same mistake again. The marijuana incident, while different, could have the same damaging impact on Phelps' image and reputation, which were riding high after he won a record eight gold medals at the Beijing Games. Cereal and snack maker Kellogg Co. said it will not renew its sponsorship contract with Phelps. The Michiganbased company said Phelps's behavior is "not consistent with the image of Kellogg." But some of Phelps' leading sponsors have still expressed support for him. Luxury Swiss watchmaker Omega termed Phelps' actions a private matter and "nonissue." Swimwear manufacturer Speedo called the 23-year-old American a "valued member of the Speedo team." The International Olympic Committee is also backing the gold medalist. "Michael Phelps is a great Olympic champion," the IOC said in a statement to the AP. "He apologized for his inappropriate behavior. We have no reason to doubt his sincerity and his commitment to continue to act as a role model." The party occurred nearly three months after the Olympics while Phelps was taking a long break from training, and his actions should have no impact on the eight golds he won at Beijing. He has never tested positive for banned substances, and this case doesn't fall under any doping rules. Marijuana is viewed differently from performance-enhancing drugs, said David Howman, executive director of the World Anti-Doping Agency. An athlete is subject to WADA sanctions only for a positive test that occurs during competition periods. However, a Richland County, S.C., sheriff said his office is investigating the incident to see if they may press charges against Phelps if the party took place in the county. "Our narcotics division is reviewing the information that we have, and they're investigating what charges, if any, will be filed," said Lt. Chris Cowan, a spokesman for agency. Under South Carolina law, possession of one ounce or less of marijuana is a misdemeanor that carries a fine up to \$200 and 30 days in jail for the first offense. Possession of paraphernalia is a \$500 fine.

February 9, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 9, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Drunken drivers will start facing different penalties depending on whether they are tipsy or trashed. The new law that takes effect Tuesday ties tougher sentences to the amount of alcohol in drivers' bodies. The law also increases penalties for repeat drunken drivers and closes some legal loopholes that critics said allowed suspects to escape punishment. Law enforcement officers will join Gov. Mark Sanford at the Statehouse on Monday to discuss the law. The Legislature approved it last April after a year of debate. The law creates a tiered penalty system based on how many times drivers are convicted and how much alcohol they have in their system. The state's blood-alcohol limit is still 0.08 percent. The new penalties get harsher at 0.10 percent and again at 0.16 percent. Under the new law, the worst offenders could spend up to 90 days in jail and have

their license suspended for up to a year. Anyone who refused to take a Breathalyzer test can have their license suspended for up to six months.

February 9, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 10, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: One of the oldest churches in the Upstate area was gutted Monday by an intense fire. Firefighters rushed to Mountain Creek Baptist Church, which is located on the 3400 block of Highway 29 South near Norris Road in Anderson County, just after 6:30 p.m. Monday. Anderson County Fire Chief Billy Gibson said that the flames were shooting at least 80 feet into the air by the time his crews arrived. Emergency crews closed U.S. Highway 29 South while firefighters battled the inferno, and more than 1500 feet of fire hose was laid to supply the crews with water. The historic church's sanctuary has been deemed a total loss. Pastor Ray Thompson said the church was founded in 1789 when George Washington was in his first term of office. Gibson said seven different fire departments battled the blaze for more than three hours, and said that a crew will remain at the scene throughout the night to ensure that the fire does not reignite. Gibson also said that the area will be guarded because it will be classified as a crime scene until the cause of the fire can be determined. The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and investigators from the Anderson County Fire Department will be back at daybreak on Tuesday to begin investigating the origin and cause of the blaze. Authorities said they do have a truck of interest. According to Gibson, police would like to speak to the driver of a white pickup truck seen in the area at the time of the fire -although they emphasize that the individual is not a suspect. Chief Gibson is asking anyone with information on this fire to call the Anderson County Fire Headquarters at 864-260-4016. About 100 members attended the church, Thompson said, and the sanctuary could seat up to 120 people. Thompson said that though the church was one of the oldest in the Upstate, it still had its original, hand-made brick and stained glass window exterior. According to Thompson, the only things firefighters were able to salvage from the burning sanctuary included a wooden cross from the prayer room and a picture of the church. Thompson described the church's architecture as having a colonial style. Firefighters said the cedar timbers that were used in the loft of the church helped fuel the massive, quick-moving fire. The roof collapsed during the blaze.

February 10, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News February 10, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Greenville Memorial has become the first hospital in South Carolina to implant the world's smallest heart pump. Hospital officials said the Impella Pump, which is only as thick as a straw, was recently implanted in the heart of Jerry White, of Greer. Doctors said the pump pushes 2.5 liters of blood per minute, which takes strain off the heart and increases the amount of blood that the heart puts out. Doctors said White's arteries were almost completely closed before the pump, which did not allow the blood to flow correctly. White said he has seen an improved quality of life. "I hope I can get a few more months or maybe a year or maybe longer," said White. "I have beaten the odds so many times to be with my family and grandchildren. There are no words to express how I feel about the doctors." Doctors with Carolina Cardiology Consultants said they will now perform at least one of these surgeries a month.

March 10, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 10, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: One in 50 children is homeless in the United States every year, according to a report released Tuesday. The report, by the National Center on Family Homelessness, analyzed data from 2005-06 and found that more than 1.5 million children were without a home. "These numbers will grow as home foreclosures continue to rise," Ellen Bassuk, president of the center, said in a statement. The study ranked states on their performance in four areas: the extent of child homelessness, the risk for it, child well-being and the state's policy and planning efforts. The states that fared the poorest were Texas, Georgia, Arkansas, New Mexico and Louisiana. Connecticut, New Hampshire, Hawaii, Rhode Island and North Dakota performed the best. Homeless children have poor health, emotional problems and low graduation rates, the study found. "The consequences to our society will play out for decades," Bassuk said. "As we bail out the rest of our nation, it is also time to come to their aid." The report offers recommendations such as improved support to ensure that children's schooling is not interrupted when they lose their homes, and services to address the trauma of homelessness. Other highlights in the report, "America's Youngest Outcasts: State Report Card on Child Homelessness:" • 42 percent of homeless children are younger than 6. • African-American and Native American

children are disproportionately represented. • More than 1 in 7 homeless children have moderate to severe health conditions, such as <u>asthma</u>. • Approximately 1.16 million of homeless children today will not graduate from high school.

March 13, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 13, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: The NAACP is accusing Wells Fargo and HSBC of forcing blacks into subprime mortgages while whites with identical qualifications got lower rates. Class-action lawsuits were to be filed against the banks Friday in federal court in Los Angeles, Austin Tighe, co-lead counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, told The Associated Press. Black homebuyers have been 3½ times more likely to receive a subprime loan than white borrowers, and six times more likely to get a subprime rate when refinancing. Tighe said. Blacks still were disproportionately steered into subprime loans when their credit scores, income and down payment were equal to those of white homebuyers, he said, Wells Fargo & Co. is receiving federal bailout funds. Messages left after hours with the banks were not immediately returned. Amara Weaver of Milwaukee bought her first home in 1984, receiving a 6.25 percent fixed-rate mortgage. She says she had a steady job as a human resources director for a social services agency, never missed a mortgage payment and maintained excellent credit. In 2004, she wanted to buy the house next door for her son to live in. She said the bank promised her a low fixed rate for a \$40,000 loan, but at the closing, when reading the fine print, she noticed that the rate was actually 11 percent. "I was blown away," said Weaver, an NAACP member. "I didn't have any choice (but to sign). ... It made me feel violated." Similar NAACP lawsuits are pending against a dozen other subprime lenders. "This is systematic, institutionalized racism," Tighe said. "Once you take out factors relative to income and credit risk, the only difference between the borrowers is the color of their skin." Tighe estimated that "tens of thousands" of blacks had been forced into bad loans, but said it was difficult to gauge the scope of the problem because banks keep much of their internal data private. The lawsuits could force banks to divulge closely guarded information, such as how banks can determine the race of a loan applicant and how federal bailout funds are being spent. The NAACP is seeking reforms from the banks such as increased transparency in the loan process, educational outreach and internal training.

March 18, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 18, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: Spartanburg County Sheriff Chuck Wright said Wednesday that divers found the body of a boy who had been missing since Tuesday afternoon. Deputies said that 2-year-old William Eschenbach was reported missing around 4 p.m. Tuesday. They said he was last seen playing in the back yard with his sister. Wright said William's body was found in a fork of the Tyger River that was included in the search area at about 11:30 a.m. He said that search dogs had been picking up the boy's scent near the river on Tuesday night. Wright said the river ranges in depth between 2 and 8 feet. He said a dive team was called in on Tuesday, but the current was too swift to deploy them safely. about a mile from his home, Wright said. William's family is distraught, Wright said. He said he had been praying with them just before he talked to the media on Wednesday morning. He asked everyone to pray for the family and deputies who made the discovery. "It's a bad day," Wright said. "It's never easy when you find a baby like that." Investigators said they believe William may have wandered away from his home through an open gate. It was previously reported that William may be autistic, but deputies said that after talking with his mother they do not believe that is the case. Wright said during the news conference that William has been "slow to develop." Wright said that investigators do not suspect any foul play in William's disappearance.

March 23, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 23, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: About half of North Carolina adults oppose a constitutional amendment that would ban gay marriage, as the state continues to separate itself from its Southern peers. An Elon University poll released Monday found that 50.4 percent of respondents oppose or strongly oppose such an amendment. More than 43 percent of those in the survey said they would support or strongly support it. Voters in every Southern state except North Carolina have approved state constitutional amendments restricting marriage to a union between one man and one woman. Democratic leaders in North Carolina argue that state law already prohibits gay marriage, but supporters say an amendment would provide stronger protections for traditional marriage. The Elon poll surveyed 620 North Carolina residents from March 15 to March 19. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

March 23, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 23, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: South Carolina <u>Education</u> Lottery officials said a ticket worth \$875,000 was sold at a Spinx station in Spartanburg. According to Stephani Hemminghaus, with the lottery product relations coordinator, the MegaMatch 6 ticket won Friday's drawing, but the winner has not come forward. Hemminghaus said the ticket was sold at the Spinx station at 106 Sha Lane.

The winner can redeem the ticket at any of the Lottery Claims Centers in Greenville, Columbia or Mt. Pleasant, Hemminghaus said. She said the winner has 180 days to claim their prize. The winning numbers for Friday's drawing were 1, 4, 14, 30, 33 and 34.

March 27, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 27, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: A Greer police officer who is credited for saving a woman's life whose car had stalled on train tracks in 2007 donated money he was paid for telling his story. It was around 12:15 a.m. on Oct. 15 at a railroad crossing near Highway 290 when an Amtrak train plowed into a Williamston woman's car. Only seconds before the train slammed into her car, the woman was coaxed out of her car and to safety by Sgt. Marcus O'Shields of Greer police. Dashcam video shows O'Shields arriving at the railroad tracks to find a car stopped on them. The woman is sitting in her car when O'Shields walks up and tells her she needs to get out of the car. O'Shields said he realized a train was headed toward them when he heard a train whistle in the distance. "That's when I said, 'Ma'am, you got to get off the phone. Get out of the car. There's a train coming!" O'Shields said. About 15 seconds after the woman and O'Shields walked away from the car, the Amtrak train slammed into the 1997 Nissan Altima. Both the train engine and the car burst into flames. "I'm just doing my job," O'Shields said. "I was in the right place at the right time." Immediately after the train crashed into the car, the woman screamed, "Oh my God! Thank you for saving me!" "It's almost like a dream," O'Shields said. "You don't think of seeing that, so it is definitely a story that you'll tell your grandkids one day." Immediately following the rescue, O'Shields received national attention and was hailed as a hero. Recently, O'Shields told his story to the Discovery Channel and was paid \$400. Instead of keeping the money, O'Shields donated the money to the Greer Community Ministries. O'Shields said he believes in giving back to the community that he serves.

March 27, 2009 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News March 27, 2009 5a-9:00am The Morning News

Description: The new Roman Catholic bishop of Charleston said he likes long hikes in the woods with his dog and loves baseball. Robert Guglielmone was installed Wednesday amid pageantry and pomp at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Charleston. Guglielmone is a New York City native who spent his entire church career in New York state before being called to Charleston. Loving baseball, Guglielmone has always been a Yankees fan -- growing up, he said, in the shadow of Yankee Stadium. Heading to Charleston to oversee South Carolina's statewide Diocese of Charleston will play to Guglielmone's sports passion. The local minor league team, the Riverdogs, is a Yankees farm club.